



GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY: SERVING GEORGIA'S POETS SINCE 1979
Volume 30, Number 2: Summer 2008

DAVID BOTTOMS, POET LAUREATE OF GEORGIA FEATURED AT GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY 118TH QUARTERLY MEETING



Come enjoy another exciting program on Saturday, **July 19, 2008 at Kennesaw State University (KSU)**. We thank Dr. Robert Simon, faculty member at KSU and to the Department of Foreign Languages and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences for their support.

It is our good fortune to have as our featured reader, David Bottoms, Poet Laureate of Georgia. Bottoms was born in Canton Georgia in 1949. His first book, *Shooting Rats at the Bibb County Dump*, was selected by Robert Penn Warren as winner of the 1979 Walt Whitman Award of the Academy of American Poets. Bottoms' poems have been published in a wide variety of magazines that includes *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The Paris Review* and *Poetry*, and more than four dozen anthologies and textbooks.

Bottoms has authored six other books of poetry: *In a U-Haul North of Damascus*; *Under the Vulture Tree*; *Armored Hearts: Selected and New Poems*; *Vagrant Grace*; *Oglethorpe's Dream*; and *Waltzing through the Endtime*; and two novels, *Any Cold Jordan* and *Easter Weekend*. Other awards include Levinson and the Frederick Bock prizes from *Poetry* magazine, the Boatwright Award from Shenandoah, an Ingram Merrill Award, and Award in Literature from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Bottoms has been interviewed on regional and national radio and television programs; he is featured in a half-hour segment of *The Southern Voice*, a five-part television miniseries that profiles Southern writers. His work has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, *Southern Living*, *The Southern Review* and *The Observer* (London) to name a few. He has been Richard Hugo Poet-in-Residence at the University of Montana, Ferrol Sams Distinguished Writer at Mercer University. He currently holds the John B. and Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Distinguished Chair in English Letters at Georgia State University (Atlanta), and edits *Five Points: A Journal of Art and Literature*.

Other program highlights include the ever-popular member readings. Dr. Robert Simon will read from his new book of poetry, Jill Jennings will provide a workshop and the Dr. Robert Lynn will unveil the GPS 2008 anthology, *The Reach of Song*.

Simon is Assistant Professor of Spanish at KSU. He has taught both Spanish and Portuguese languages and has investigated the presence of Surrealism, Mysticism and postmodernism in Contemporary Peninsular Literature. He is widely published in several journals (*The Reach of Song*, *The American Poetry Journal* and *The New York Quarterly*) and has a book of poetry, *New Poems from the Airplane and Graveyard*. He explains his poetry as "an exploration of the intimate connection between love, death, and the languages that harness and define me as both a poet and a scholar."

Jennings has won top awards from several poetry and writers organizations. She is a retired journalist who served as editor of **West Michigan Magazine**, and as a regular columnist and reviewer for *The Athens Observer*, as well as Public Relations Director for two PBS affiliates. Her first full-length volume of poetry, *The Poetry Alarm Clock*, will be available on August 1, 2008. She taught Latin and English in the public schools, developed writing workshops for the English portion of the SAT exam. Since her 2004 retirement, she devotes herself to writing and teaching writing workshops, writing in both English and French. Jennings makes her home in Woodstock GA with her husband, Paul Cheng.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Clela Reed, Vice President

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AGENDA

117TH QUARTERLY GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY MEETING

9:15 a.m. until 3 p.m.

9:15 a.m.	Coffee and Registration. Member Reading Sign-up
9:45 a.m.	Welcome and business (Nominating Committee) – GPS President Ron Self
10:00 a.m.	Member Readings (poems from <i>Reach of Song</i> or others)
10:50 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Featured Poet: David Bottoms, Poet Laureate of Georgia
11:30 a.m.	Q&A and Book Signing
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Unveiling of 2008 <i>The Reach of Song</i> : Dr. Robert Lynn Cover photo by Lee Reed, Athens, Georgia Presentation of Awards for Excellence Member Readings (ROS poems only) Passing of ROS Editorship to Dr. Tonette Long
2:00 p.m.	Reading from his book, <i>New Poems from the Airplane and Grave</i> : Dr. Robert Simon
2:20 p.m.	Workshop: <i>Invention, or How to Get the Muse to Visit You</i> : Jill Jennings
3:00 p.m.	Adjournment and Distribution of 2008 <i>The Reach of Song</i>
3:10 p.m.	Board Meeting

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, RON SELF: FOR WANT OF A NAIL



One of the chores that is at the same time one of the joys of being president of this organization is having to/getting to come early for the quarterly meetings, being one of the first people to arrive at the meeting place to check it out, make sure everything is in order and ready. This gives me the chance to welcome our members as they arrive and the opportunity to watch what happens in the meeting room as we begin to gather.

The first few people, unless they already know each other, migrate to distant corners of the room. Then as more people show up, they begin to fill in the gaps, and those sitting near someone else say hello, introduce themselves, and the distance between them narrows and each person becomes a bridge connecting to others who then also say hello and introduce themselves, and pretty soon the room fills up and just about everybody is sitting next to or is connected to somebody else somehow.

What this suggests to me is that each of us, every member of the Georgia Poetry Society, is part of the bridge that connects us, has a role to play, a gap to fill, and when you are not in your

place at the quarterly meeting, your portion of the structure is missing, the connection you could make and that ought to be there is not there, and we are all diminished by your absence. As Benjamin Franklin put it: "A little neglect may breed great mischief...for want of nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost." For want of you, a connection is lost.

And if this is true of our meeting room, it is also true of the geography of our state. Georgia Poetry Society members are located across the state and beyond, but there are gaps, vast wide-open spaces where there are no Georgia Poetry Society members and thus no Georgia Poetry Society. We need you to fill in those some of those gaps, help us build a bridge to and over those spaces, to connect the dots of our widely scattered membership with new members in new places throughout the state.

Imagine that the Georgia Poetry Society is a poem, and we are all words or lines in that great poem. What happens when we remove a random word or line? What happens when part of the poem disappears, is not there, doesn't get written at all?

We all know someone who should be a member of the Georgia Poetry Society but isn't. Do your part, invite them to join. Bring them with you to the next meeting. Don't be the missing nail. We need you to help us build new bridges.

Ron Self

MEET GPS POETS



Fran Stewart is a resident of Lawrenceville, Georgia. She says she lives on the back side of Hog Mountain, beside a creek with an assortment of rescued cats.

Fran was introduced to poetry by several phenomenal teachers in the seventh grade and high school. She enjoys a variety of poetic styles:

sonnets, villanelles, free verse,

depending on the subject and how the words flow.

Fran is an author, freelance editor and public speaker. The quote she lives by is "Healing the World through Teaching the Power of Gratitude". She wrote The Biscuit McKee Mystery Series, which includes: **Orange as Marmalade; Yellow as Legal Pads; Green as a Garden Hose; Blue as Blue Jeans; and Indigo as an Iris** - the 5th Biscuit McKee Mystery - to be published this fall.

Non-Fiction works include: **From the Tip of My Pen**: "a clear-sighted, warm, and often humorous approach to increasing your writing skills." She has also written a children's bilingual book for ages four to nine: **As Orange as Marmalade / Tan naranja como Mermelada**.

Fran's first book of poetry is **Resolution**, published by Doggie in the Window Press. You can discover more about Fran at www.FranStewart.com/faq.htm.



David C. Hightower was born into a household with roots in the Kentucky mountains on his mother's side and the north Georgia mountains on his father's side. He was raised on farms in the foothills of the Appalachians in Bartow County, Georgia.

He became serious about poetry while serving in the army and continued to write during his years as an English teacher at

Rockmart Middle School and at Cass High School where he was the advisor for the yearbook, newspaper and literary magazine. David's poetry uses images of the Appalachians and nature to express the universal themes of life.

His poems have been published in *The Atlanta Review*, *The Lullwater Review*, *Artword*, *The Savannah Literary Journal*, *Wind Magazine*, *Literary House*, *Old Red Kimono*, *Goose River Anthology*, and the anthology, *Georgia On My Mind*. He is the author of **The Hanging Man Dreams** available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

He is a member of AuthorsDen.com and Creative Thinkers International and was selected as *The Writing Forum's* 2007 Poet Of The Year. He also placed Second in the 2007 *Byron Herbert Reece International Awards* competition and Second in the 2007 *Langston Hughes Award* poetry contest. See David's poetry at <http://www.authorsden.com/visit/author.asp?AuthorID=66920>.

UNVEILING OF THE 2008 REACH OF SONG

It's that time of year for GPS members to ensure the broad distribution of their celebrated poetry anthology.

Twenty-five editions of *The Reach of Song* have been issued since the founding of The Georgia Poetry Society in 1979-80. And on July 22 the 2008 issue will be unveiled at the quarterly GPS meeting in Kennesaw.

"Members can take two actions to spread abroad the anthology," said Editor Robert L. Lynn. "First is to order copies before the meeting at advance prices of \$13.50 each.

"Second is to purchase a gift copy for your local or school library," the editor stated.

Last year over 40 gift copies were placed in libraries over Georgia by GPS members.

The new edition contains 97 poems, including those by 25 adult and youth contest winners, and 72 poems, one each by 72 GPS members. Selections were made by Judges Donna Jean Tennis of Montgomery, Alabama, and Helen Jones of Fort Worth, Texas.

Highlights of the July 22 unveiling will be the introduction of the spectacular 2008 cover photograph by Dr. Lee Reed, UGA business professor and husband of GPS Vice President Clela Reed, and the recognition of Awards for Excellence for member poems.

Please use the form on final insert to send your order, with check.

Submitted by Robert L. Lynn

THE 2008 NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES CONVENTION

GPS PRESIDENT SHOWS THE WAY WITH FIRST PLACE NFSPS WIN

Ron Self received a First Place win with his poem, "Eighteen" in Contest 21: Plains Poet Award. Yeehaw! The Columbus Bard rides high!

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) convention was held in Layton, near Salt Lake City, Utah, June 19-23. Attending from Georgia were John Ottley of Alpharetta, Emery Campbell of Lawrenceville, and Larry and Midge Hand of Woodstock.

More than 9,970 poems were received from 527 entrants nationwide. Understandably a citation is highly prized. GPS members should be proud of this

year's results. Twenty-five times, as honors were announced, the audience heard "... a poet from Georgia"

AWARDS

- **Ron Self** Columbus: First Place, Contest Number 21, Plains Poets Award, for his poem "Eighteen". Number of entries: 144.
- **Larry Hand** Woodstock: Second Place, Contest 34, Minute Award, for "Walking Away". Number of entries: 100.
- **Larry Hand** Woodstock: Third Place, Contest 35, Save Our Earth Award, for "Hotlanta Musters Up A Cloud". Number of entries: 159.

Awarded poems will be published in next year's "Encore," anthology of the NFSPS.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

- **Emery Campbell** Lawrenceville: 1st in Contests 32 and 48.
- **Terry Hensel** Alpharetta: 3rd in Contest 11, 5th in 48.
- **Larry Hand** Woodstock: 6th in Contest 5, 6th in 13, 3rd in 14, 2nd in 17, 5th in 45.
- **John Ottley** Alpharetta: 4th in Contest 8.
- **Ron Self** Columbus: 1st in Contest 19.

JUDGES' CITATIONS

- **Emery Campbell** Lawrenceville: Contest 31.
- **Larry Hand** Woodstock: Contest 38.
- **Terry Hensel** Alpharetta: Contests 15 and 30.
- **Ron Self** Columbus: Contest 24.

Submitted by Larry Hand

Note: Judges' citations are not required by NFSPS and are given only when the judge is moved to honor a poem that does not qualify for an award or honorable mention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE YOU A CHARTER MEMBER OF GPS?

GPS wants to recognize its charter members at the January 2009 Awards Luncheon. When the Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc. (actual name of the Georgia Poetry Society) was formed in 1979, it was agreed that persons joining during the first year of existence would be "Charter Members." Please help us identify those remaining members who are charter members, who joined the organization during the August 30, 1979- August 30, 1980 time period.

If you are a charter member or know someone who is a charter member and might not come forward on his or her own, please notify GPS so that proper recognition can be made. Please send your notice to Ron Self at smrws@aol.com, 706-649-3080 or to GPS, P. O. Box 2184 Columbus, GA 31902. Thank you for your help.

"GUIDING LIGHTS"

Your help is needed to identify "Guiding Lights." The National Federation of State Poetry Societies recognizes as "Guiding Lights" those members of state poetry societies who are at least 65 years of age and have been actively involved in GPS and/or NFSPS events for at least 20 years. The Georgia Poetry Society wants to recognize its "Guiding Lights" and nominate them for this national honor.

If you are a GPS member who meets the criteria (at least 65 years and active in the state or national poetry societies for at least 20 years) or know of a member who should be recognized for this honor, please notify Ron Self at smrws@aol.com or P. O. Box 2184 Columbus, GA 31902-2184.

Thank you for assisting us in identifying our GPS "Guiding Lights."

NFSPS STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION

Now is your chance! Enter now! The National Federation of State Poetry Societies presents an opportunity for publication of your (single author) poetry manuscript.

First prize is \$1000 plus publication of the winning manuscript of 48-70 pages. Your submission may include individual previously published poems (acknowledgments on separate sheet); and, simultaneous and multiple submissions are permitted.

The submission period is August 1 – October 15, 2008 (postmark deadline) and the entry fee is \$20. Full details are located at <http://www.nfsps.com/stevens1.htm>.

LOOKING FOR A TAX DEDUCTION?

Your Georgia Poetry Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and contributions to GPS are tax deductible. Please consider supporting the activities of your Georgia Poetry Society by making a gift in honor or memory of a friend.

Thanks for your help.

CONFERENCE, FORUMS, AND OPEN MICS

2ND ANNUAL CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY WRITERS' CONFERENCE

The 2008 Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference Steering Committee is planning the 2008 session. Dr. Memye Curtis Tucker and Dr. Robert "Nick" Norwood are the two featured poets who will be faculty members at the conference.

Please check the website periodically for updates (www.chattwriters.org) or contact Ron Self or Linda Ames (chattwriter@charter.net).

ALPHARETTA POETRY FORUM

Meets the third Tuesday of each month. We spend time reading and discussing poetry. For more information, contact Terry Hensel (tlhensel@comcast.net).

COLUMBUS OPEN MIC

Meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Columbus Public Library, 3000 Macon Road. On the third Thursday of each month, also at 7 p.m., there is a Poetry Workshop 513 Broadway. Bring eight copies of your recent work to share with the group and get feedback. Call 706-649-3080 for information.

SNAIL MAIL/EMAIL ADDRESSES

To facilitate getting announcements to you, we of course use email as much as possible. However, emails to the following people have bounced back as undeliverable for one reason or another. To ensure that we have your correct email addresses, would the following members please send an email to Linda Ames (linaka31904grace@knology.net):

Marcia Roessler (E)	Pamela Keith-Pack (E)
J.C. Reilly (E)	Ann Verner (E)
Lou Jones (E)	Byron Webb (E)
Edith Mosley(S)	

HARRIS COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY

Meets monthly at Art Works, a gallery/studio in Pine Mountain, GA. For information, contact Jeanne Koone at jlkoone@aol.com or by phone at 706-663-2671.

STONEPILE WRITERS

A group of writers and poets at North Georgia College and State University have created the Stonepile Writers. For information about this new group, see <http://stonepilewriters.edublogs.org/>.

DAHLONEGA LITERARY FESTIVAL

The Dahlonega Literary Festival is scheduled for August 8-10. I think this is the third Literary Festival. For details of this year's event, see <http://www.literaryfestival.org/>.

MEMBER NEWS

GPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

✍ Lyla, Shannon, Olivia, and	✍ Joann Yeager Adkins, Atlanta
Rebecca Taft, Albany	✍ Nancy Degenhardt, Watkinsville
✍ Nora Maiden, Gainesville	✍ Sandy Hokanson, Alpharetta
✍ Pat Posey, Kingsport TN	✍ Donna Gail VanLear, Alto
✍ Johanna Rucker, Tiger	✍ Elizabeth Margo, Lawrenceville

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GPS MEMBERS

📅 July: Terry Hensel
📅 August: Emery L. Campbell; Tonette Taylor Long
📅 September: Linda Farmer Ames
Please send your birth month to Linda Ames, Newsletter Editor, so that we can remember you at this special time.

Regarding the GPS meeting on April 21, **Frances Daniel** wrote: "A 'thank you' to everybody at the meeting Saturday because GPS members were so kind to the students. Today, the students were still talking about what they experienced Saturday. As I had hoped (but had not known how to explain to them), the students experienced far more than poetry. They saw people of a different generation who write about love and laughter and sorrow and hope. One girl said, 'You know, I'll bet every person there has a great story to tell.' Several have already read all of Bill Broome's poems in the book that he freely gave to each of us. They loved him! Jeff Pearson was especially helpful with all of his guidance about writing lyrics. Thanks for all you do to help make GPS successful!"

The **Earl and Carol Taft** family renewed their family membership and added **Lyla, Shannon, Olivia**, and **Rebecca Taft** as members. Shannon Taft has published poetry online with Crossway Publications. Olivia Taft has one poem, "A Rambler" that was published by the American Library of Poetry in a collection of student poetry titled "With Honors." It is a student anthology for grades 3-12. Olivia also had a haiku published by National Wildlife Federation. Both Olivia and Shannon are writers for the Darton College Newspaper. Rebecca Taft has a cartoon that was published in National Geographic for Kids.

Larry Hand's poem "Gossamer Threads" won Second Place in Poets' Forum Magazine's Madeline Eastlund *Gencorelli Award Competition* and was published in the 2008 Winter edition.

Ira Harrison hosted an Open Mic at the Southwest Regional Library on June 17.

Fran Stewart recently spoke to the Robeson County Library Association in Lumberton NC. "Although my main topic was the mystery series I write, as I spoke about my upcoming mystery that deals with 'green funerals', it was appropriate for me to read the poem I wrote about my mother's death. That poem is the title poem of my book **Resolution**. It was very well received."

Emery Campbell has "done it again!!!" Third prize in the super-prestigious Oklahoma Annual Art Affair Contest 2007 for his short story titled "An Easter Tale." In January, the Utah State Poetry Society awarded Emery third place for his sonnet titled "Misunderstanding" and first honorable mention for his haiku "Winter winds intrude" in the competition's Traditional Forms category in their 2007 Winter/Christmas poetry contest. In the annual contest for 2008 of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society Emery Campbell received the following awards: Contest No. 4, 3rd prize for "For Simpha, in Sympathy"; Contest No. 14, Citation for "Give and Take on Main Street"; Contest No. 16, Citation for "Ominous Affliction of Occidental Egypto-Sudanese River-Area."

Emma Cottrell's poem "La Serenissima" will be published in the forthcoming issue of Dream Fantasy International. While visiting Venice a couple of years ago, she was captivated by its charm and fascinating history and wrote the poem, giving it the name by which Venice was first called, La Serenissima (The Calm One).

Leona Peffly Martin's poem, "It Rained Last Night," won second place in the poetry category in the annual spring writing contest of the Northeast Georgia Writers club, to which I also belong. This poem will be in the new Reach of Song.

Brenda Kay Ledford's poetry chapbook, SACRED FIRE, will be released in September, 2008. To pre-order copies, go to: www.finishinglinepress.com and click on "New Releases."

Clela Reed has two poems in spring issues: "Recognition" (which she read on the rock at the GPS meeting at Sandburg's Connemara) in **Colere Journal** (Coe College) and "Theory" (which she read at the January meeting at Oglethorpe) in **Caesura Journal** (San Jose Poetry Center).

POETRY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Jean Mahavier reports that during the '07-'08 school year she placed three poets in the Menlo Elementary-Middle School for an entire school day in November. During Annual Poetry Week, also in November at Cliff Valley Elementary School in Atlanta, first through fifth graders wrote and read poems, assisted by five GPS poet volunteers. In January three GPS members worked with sixth graders at Trickum Middle School in Lilburn, for three days.

In February, Jean went to Gainesville to address the Northeast Georgia Writers' Club about our school program. She discussed how individuals can work with students even when they have never been in front of a class before. Jean was invited to return in the Fall to help them establish their own program. Jean also gave a poetry reading at Cross Keys High School in DeKalb County on nationwide Black Poetry Day, reading poems by Langston Hughes and our own Herbert Denmark.

For two days in March volunteers went to Meadowcreek High School in Gwinnett County for their annual Literary Festival; they read from their work and talked to students about the construction of poetry in their own words. The Neighborhood Charter School in Atlanta began an after-school poetry club and invited Jean to help launch their first meeting, discussing how to read a poem.

Career Day is often held during April at schools. One GPS volunteer went to both Columbia Middle School and Hawthorne Elementary School to talk to classes about the importance of good grammar and developing a good working vocabulary. She further talked about how working on a poem can teach a student how to critique his own work.

Social Circle High School hosted a poet to work with several of their classes on the creation of poetry. Two poets went to several classes at Bob Mathis Elementary School in DeKalb County for readings and to talk about how they write poems.

A group of homeschoolers in Tucker enjoyed one volunteer who spent a morning with ten students who wrote poems for him. Columbia High School hosted five poets who spent most of the school day in the classroom working with tenth and eleventh grade classes.

Just prior to the end of the school year in May, Midvale Elementary School fourth

graders in Tucker celebrated poetry with a Poetry Café and invited two of GPS poets to help launch the opening of the café by reading their work. Students had studied poetry for several weeks and learned about creating their own poems. Each student recited a poem he had written. Several parents attended in support of their children's accomplishments. Refreshments were served following the students' recitations. This was a very exciting way to celebrate poetry, one they will long remember.

We expect that we will be invited to return to these schools next year during the 2008-2009 school year.

Submitted by **Jean Mahavier** (Decatur)



Hilde Holmes reports that during '07-'08 school year in the Chattahoochee Valley area, she, Freddie O'Connor Riley and Ron Self visited a number of schools: Christian Academy in LaGrange, Saint Anne's Catholic School, J.D. Davis Elementary, Kendrick High School, and Dimon Elementary School in Columbus.

While at LaGrange's LaFayette Christian Academy, they visited grades nine through twelve to discuss how to write poems. At Saint Anne's Elementary, first graders wanted to write a poem about what peace meant to them. Fourth graders at Davis Elementary received instruction on how to write poetry and assistance on poems they were writing.

In February 2008, Kendrick High School Poetry Club invited Hilde and Ron to an assembly where club members recited the poems they had written. Later during the month, Hilde attended a club meeting. "It was a great chance to exchange ideas with them. We have a standing invitation."

At Dimon, Hilde, Freddie and Ron talked with fourth graders about how they write poetry and offered assistance in writing poems. Everyone enjoyed the students as they recited the poems written during the visit.

Hilde received the following note from one of the ninth grade teachers at LaFayette Christian Academy in LaGrange. "The ninth grade students generated a list of things they learned from your visit. Then I had them use those thoughts in a poem. These are the best ideas!" Frances

Poetry (by Dorothy)

Metaphors.

Similes.

It comes from the heart.

Use the five senses.

List, then start.

Always something to edit –

You're never really done.

Patience is the key

To having so much fun.

Devan wrote:

I learned to write for the five senses,
To think patiently,
And edit always,
For poems are never truly done.
Now I know what an acrostic is,
And I know to write from my heart.
I wondered about the happiness
Of the happy room,
And learned from the man
Who seemed somehow owlsh.

Justin wrote:

Patiently waiting,
Remember – translucent, no
Opaque.
Always editing.
Should it be an acrostic?
Don't forget about
The five senses.
Did I use metaphors?
I guess I'm never
Really done.

And, Nathan wrote:

I wonder how happy the happy room is.
Is it because you come out happy
Or because you go there happy?
Why call it "happy"
When you have to balance real good?
Does it make you happy
To be in a happy room?
I wonder.



Last but not least, "Just a funny statement from one student (Billy): 'Mr. Self reminded me of an owl, especially with his poem about the bird lady. (No disrespect intended.)'"

Submitted by **Hilde Holmes** (Columbus)

LUNCHEON ORDER FORM

Lunch Reservations:

We have boxed lunch choices, each for \$10. Please select your preference and mail the slip below with the number requested for each choice and a **check made out to Georgia Poetry Society for "Meal."**

CLUB BOXED LUNCH

Slice turkey, crisp bacon, avocado, lettuce, tomato and red onion served on seven-grain bread or a crusted baguette. Fruit and pasta salad, cookies, chips and bottled water or soda

THE ITALIANO BOXED LUNCH

Grilled boneless breast of chicken with fontina cheese and roasted red pepper mayonnaise on a focaccia roll. Fruit and pasta salad, cookies, chips and bottled water or soda

VEGETARIAN WRAP BOXED LUNCH

Grilled vegetables, lettuce, tomato, herbed mayonnaise rolled in a spinach tortilla. Fruit and pasta salad, cookies, chips and bottled water or soda

Mail to:

T. Hensel
PO Box 999
Alpharetta, GA 30009

Clip and Send by July 11 postmark

Name(s): _____

Place number of orders in blanks: Vegetarian ____

Italiano ____

Vegetarian ____

Total payment: _____

DIRECTIONS TO KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

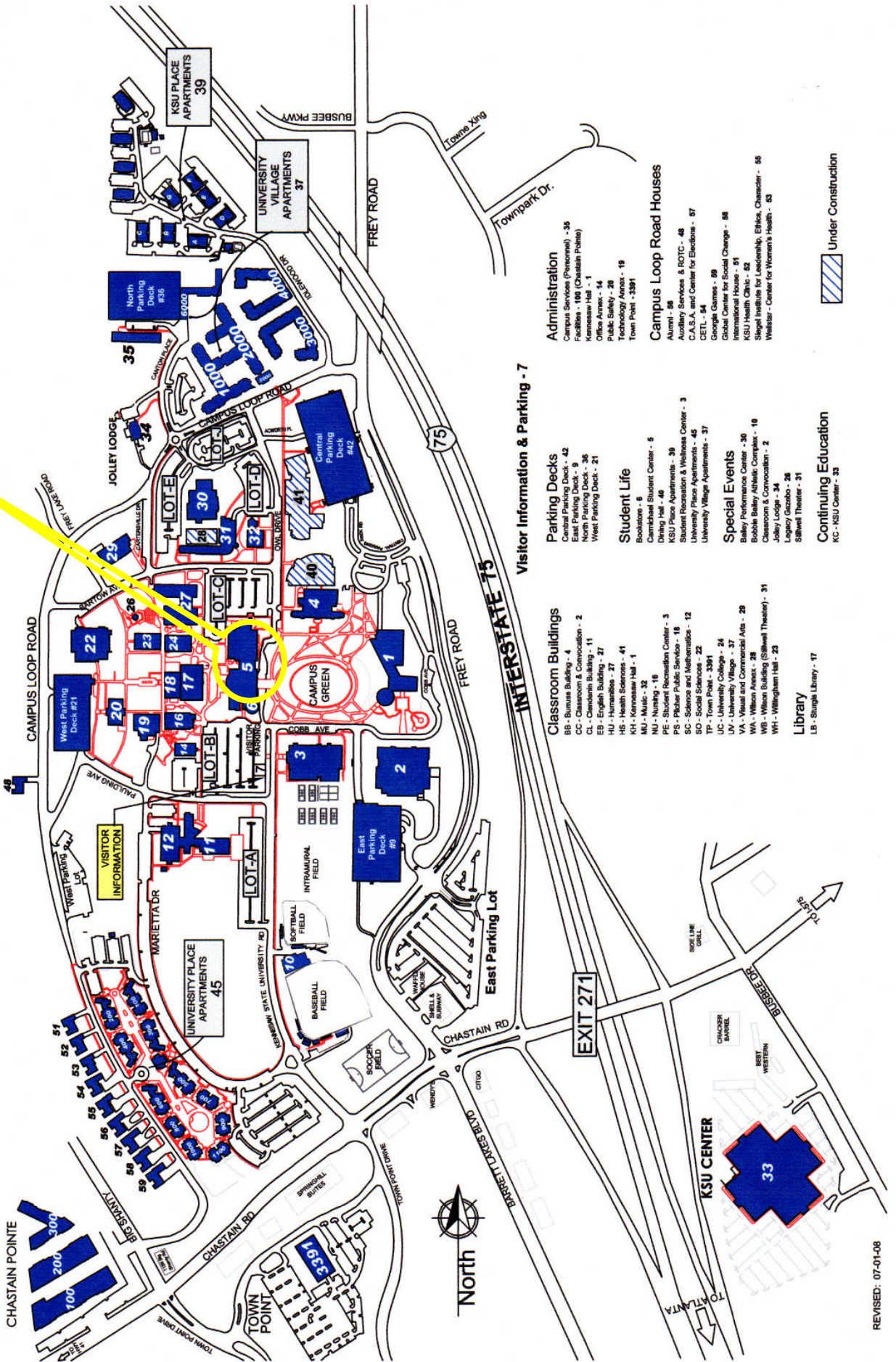
Kennesaw State University
1000 Chastain Road
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144
770-423-6000

1. Kennesaw State University is located in Cobb County, 20 minutes north of Atlanta on I-75 one exit north of Town Center Mall;
2. Take the Chastain Road Exit number 271;
3. Turn left if northbound on I-75 (turn right if southbound);
4. Go to the third light if northbound (second if southbound);
5. Turn right onto Kennesaw State University Drive just beyond the soccer field on your right;
6. Continue straight for about one tenth of a mile;
7. Park in the Welcome Center lot on the left.
8. Meeting will be in the nearby Student Center (Bldg 5 on the map – Page 8). Follow GPS signs.



Student Center - Bldg 5

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
1000 CHASTAIN ROAD
KENNESAW, GA 30144
770-423-6000
www.kennesaw.edu



- Administration**
Campus Services (Personnel) - 35
Facilities - 100 (Chastain Pointe)
Kennesaw Hall - 1
Office Annex - 14
Public Safety - 26
Technology Annex - 19
Town Point - 3381
- Campus Loop Road Houses**
Alumni - 56
Auxiliary Services & ROTC - 46
C.A.S.A. and Center for Elections - 57
CEIL - 54
College Center - 59
College Center for Social Change - 58
KSU Health Clinic - 82
KSU Health Institute for Leadership, Ethics, Character - 85
Wellstar - Center for Women's Health - 83
- Visitor Information & Parking - 7**
- Parking Decks**
Central Parking Deck - 42
East Parking Deck - 1
North Parking Deck - 36
West Parking Deck - 21
- Student Life**
Bookstore - 6
Carmichael Student Center - 5
Dining Hall - 40
KSU Place Apartments - 39
Student Recreation & Wellness Center - 3
University Place Apartments - 45
University Village Apartments - 37
- Special Events**
Bobby Bailey Athletic Complex - 16
Classroom & Convocation - 2
Jolley Lodge - 34
Legacy Gazebo - 26
Silver Theater - 31
- Continuing Education**
KC - KSU Center - 33
- Under Construction**

- Classroom Buildings**
BB - Bunsue Building - 4
CC - Classroom & Convocation - 2
CL - Clendenen Building - 11
EB - English Building - 27
HU - Humanities - 27
HS - Health Sciences - 41
H1 - Kennesaw Hall - 1
M1 - Kennesaw Hall - 1
NU - Nursing - 16
PE - Student Recreation Center - 3
PS - Pletcher Public Services - 18
SC - Science and Mathematics - 12
SO - Social Sciences - 22
TP - Town Point - 3381
UC - University College - 24
UV - University Village - 37
VA - Visual and Commercial Arts - 29
WB - Wilson Annex - 28
WH - Willingham Hall - 23
- Library**
LB - Stagle Library - 17

2008 Poetry Contests

The Georgia Poetry Society conducts contests in the fall of each year, with an October 15 postmark deadline for all entries. In addition to earning cash prizes, the top three poems in each contest may be published in *The Reach of Song*, the annual GPS poetry anthology. Below are descriptions of the contests, along with contest-specific requirements such as form and number of lines, followed by a set of general rules, such as the format required for all entries. (Note: *Changes reflected as **bolded and underlined***.)

CHAPBOOK CONTEST:

In the Charles Dickson chapbook competition held every two years, the GPS publishes a work of poetry numbering 20 pages or less. Information and instructions follow the general contest rules below. **There will be no chapbook contest in 2008. See contest rules and guidelines to be updated in 2009.**

ENTRY FEES:

- GPS Life Members: No fee;
- GPS members: \$ 2 per poem;
- Non-members: \$ 3 per poem.
- \$20 entry fee for Charles Dickson Chapbook Competition.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES: Three entries per poet per contest.

PRIZES: First \$75, Second \$50, Third \$25.

YOUTH COMPETITION:

The GPS also conducts annual awards programs for students in grades 1-12 enrolled in a Georgia public or private school or home-schooled at a permanent Georgia address. Information on the Margery Carlson Prize and the Marel Brown Prize can be found below, and at the GPS website, www.georgiapoetrysociety.org, which also contains a printable copy of the required entry form.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Awards for adults are announced at an awards luncheon, where honored poets are given the opportunity to read their winning entries. The luncheon is currently part of the winter quarterly meeting held in January. (Youth awards, which have a January 31 postmark deadline each year, are announced at the quarterly GPS meeting in April.)

CONTESTS FOR 2008

THE LANGSTON HUGHES AWARD

Maximum 40 lines; any subject, any form. Must be written in the spirit of Hughes' poetry. Celebrates the life and poetic achievements of Langston Hughes. His early work, "The Weary Blues" earned him acclaim as an important contributor to the Harlem Renaissance arts movement of the 1920s. Hughes was affiliated with the Atlanta University Center

FOUNDERS AWARD

- Maximum 80 lines; any subject, any form.
- Honors GPS founding President Edwin D. Vickers, and co-founder Charles J. Bruehler.

EDUCATORS' AWARD

- Maximum 40 lines; any subject, any form.
- To enter you must be a past or present **teacher or educator in any field of academic study**.

BYRON HERBERT REECE INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Maximum 40 lines; any subject, any form. Honors Georgia's beloved and internationally renowned poet, Byron Herbert Reece (1917-1958), whose "finely-crafted ballads and lyrics celebrate the life and heritage of the north Georgia mountains" (courtesy, New Georgia Encyclopedia). Reece won two Guggenheims, and was nominated for a Pulitzer prize during his relatively brief career

THE EDGAR BOWERS AWARD

- Maximum 40 lines; any subject.
 - Form: a traditional poem that must be written in the spirit of Bowers' verse. (The poem must use rhyme and/or meter in a generally recognized and accepted poetic form, such as a sonnet, sestina, villanelle, etc.) Form must be identified on poem.
- Honors Georgia poet Edgar Bowers (1924-2000), whose compact and rigorous formalism defined the spirit of his work. His poems expressed themes of loss—of the past, of friends, of family, of humanity.

MNEMOSYNE AWARD

- Maximum 40 lines; any subject, any form.
- Honors in memoriam Georgia Poetry Society members who were of notable service to the Society, including Thelma Ruth Hall, Katherine Ward, R. Riherd Greene, and Annette Rumph Peery. Mnemosyne (nigh-MOHS-eh-nee) was an ancient Greek goddess, the Muse of Memory.

GENERAL RULES

Please observe these rules of competition to avoid the disappointment of disqualification.

RIGHTS By submitting entries to any GPS poetry contest, entrants affirm that the poetry is their own original, unpublished work to which they own all rights. Entrants attest that the work submitted is not simultaneously entered in any other contest or submitted elsewhere for publication. Entrants attest that the poem submitted has not won a monetary award of more than \$10 in any previous competition. The Georgia Poetry Society reserves the right to publish prize-winning poems in its annual anthology, *The Reach of Song*. Until published, rights rest with the Society. After publication, or a decision not to publish, rights revert to the author.

ELIGIBILITY: A contestant can enter only three poems per contest, and the same poem cannot be entered in any other contest. A contestant can win only one cash award in any contest.

DEADLINE: Each year, entries are accepted beginning September 1 and ending with postmarks of October 15. (If October 15 occurs on a weekend or holiday, entries postmarked the first business day after October 15 are accepted.) Following the awards luncheon announcements, results are also listed in the GPS newsletter and on the GPS website: www.georgiapoetrysociety.org.

SUBJECT MATTER. Poems submitted must be consistent with the publication aims of the Society's annual anthology, *The Reach of Song*.

Because this anthology is forwarded to school and public libraries where children are readers, and because winning poems may be published in it, poems submitted must avoid language or themes inappropriate for a child readership. Accordingly, poems will be disqualified if they are deemed by the contest coordinator(s) or judge(s) to violate this standard. In general, poems will be disqualified if found to contain indecencies, obscenities, defamations, or hateful expressions.

HONORABLE MENTIONS, CITATIONS. Although the rules state that only three cash prizes are awarded, sometimes judges feel that certain poems merit an "honorable mention" or even a "citation." While these honors may be announced, no cash prizes are awarded, and these poems are not published in *The Reach of Song*.

HOW TO ENTER YOUR POEMS

A. PREPARE THE POEMS: Type each entry in English on only one side of 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper, one poem per page, single-spaced (if a poem runs longer than one page, staple together all pages of each copy). Prepare two copies with the name of the contest in the upper right-hand corner of both copies. Place the name and address of the poet under the name of the contest on only one copy of the poem.

B. PREPARE PAYMENT: Write a check or money order payable to: Georgia Poetry Society. (Do not make checks or money order payable to individual contest chairs.) All competition fees must be paid in U.S. funds. Poems accompanied by cash will be disqualified and returned to the submitter. **IMPORTANT:** Check to be sure your payment is correct. The total must include \$2.00 for each poem entered if you are a GPS member, and \$3.00 per poem if you are not a member of the GPS. You do not need to write separate checks or money orders if you are entering poems in multiple contests.

C. MAIL YOUR ENTRIES: In a suitable envelope, include both copies of all your entries, along with your check or money order. If you want to receive a list of award winners, be sure to include a SASE. Mailing all your entries for all contests in a single envelope is encouraged. Mail your entries anytime after September 1 but no later than October 15, unless October 15 occurs on a weekend or holiday, in which case you can mail your entries the first business day after October 15. Address the envelope to:

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY
ATTN: Contests Chair
PO Box 2184
Columbus GA 31902

(Note: the Georgia Poetry Society mailing address usually follows the President. When a new President of the society is elected the mailing address may change. It is recommended that entrants check the website to verify the current mailing address as of the time of submission.)

NO EMAIL ENTRIES: Submissions by email will be ignored.

CANCELLATIONS: Any contest receiving fewer than ten entries may be canceled. If so, entry fees will be refunded.

JUDGING: Each contest chairperson will secure qualified judges who are not GPS members (with the exception of the youth contests). Entries are judged anonymously. Decisions of the judges are final. A list of winners will contain the name(s) of the judge(s).

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS: Winners not present at the awards luncheon in January will be notified and will receive their awards by mail. A list of winners will be sent to all entrants who include a SASE with their submissions.

PUBLICATION: The GPS reserves first publication rights to all prize-winning poems for possible inclusion in the anthology, *Reach of Song*. Failure to allow GPS to publish a winning poem will result in disqualification, loss of placement and loss of prize money.

NON-WINNING POEMS: Will be destroyed. No poems are returned.

CHAPBOOK CONTEST

Every two years, the Charles Dickson Chapbook Contest honors poetic achievement in a chapbook-length work. Dickson, an internationally respected poet of the haiku, was the author of *A Touch of Wholeness*, *Taste of Summer*, *Fragrance of Frost Grapes*, and *Out of Casseopeia*. The chapbook contest is funded in part by a grant from the estate of John King and Mary Harvey Ottley and a gift from Virginia Dickson. **There will be no chapbook contest in 2008. See contest rules and guidelines to be updated in 2009.**

PRIZES FOR YOUTH POETRY

The Margery Carlson Prize is awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students in grades 1-5. The Marel Brown Prize is a two-tier contest with prizes awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

ELIGIBILITY: Any student in grades 1-12 enrolled in a Georgia public or private school or home-schooled at a permanent Georgia address.

FEES: There are no entry fees for this contest.

LENGTH OF POEM: maximum of 32 lines.

- Only one entry per student.
- Maximum of four poems per school.

SUBJECT: Any subject in good taste, any poetic form. Poem must be student's original and unpublished work. Teachers should ensure that works are not plagiarized.

PRIZES (1st/2nd/3rd):

- \$15/ \$10/ \$5 (Margery Carlson, grades 1-5)
- \$20/ \$15/ \$10 (Marel Brown, grades 6-8)
- \$25/ \$20/ \$15 (Marel Brown, grades 9-12)

Prize-winners also receive a copy of the issue of *The Reach of Song* that contains winning youth poems.

RESTRICTIONS: Poems must be accompanied by entry form (a printable copy of the form is available on the GPS website at <http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org>).

How To Enter Poems For Youth Poetry:

To guide submissions, please adhere to these format considerations:

- Type or word-process on standard 8.5x11 white paper. Grades 1-5 may submit hand-written entries. Please ensure legibility.
- Do not include illustrations.

- Select a standard font such as Times-Roman rather than some unconventional font (such as script fonts or Gothic). Use fonts no larger than 14-point.
- One poem per page. Poems must be in English.
- Submit two copies of the poem, one without author identification. The copy with identification should be taped, pasted or stapled to the entry form. Keep a copy of the poem submitted as they cannot be returned.
- Send all manuscripts from the same school in one envelope with school name and grade level on the envelope exterior. No entries accepted from individual students unless home-schooled. Winners will be posted on the Society website at the completion of competition.
- Entry form must accompany each poem and must be complete. Form must be signed both by the student submitter and the sponsoring teacher.
- No emailed or disk entries accepted. Entries should be mailed to: Georgia Poetry Society, P.O. Box 2184, Columbus, Georgia 31902 (Note: the Georgia Poetry Society mailing address usually follows the President. When a new President of the society is elected the mailing address may change. It is recommended that entrants check the website to verify the current mailing address as of the time of submission.)

DEADLINE: All entries must be postmarked no later than January 31 or next business day if January 31 falls on a holiday or weekend.

JUDGES: The Georgia Poetry Society will select qualified judges who receive the copies without author identification for judging.

Winners are announced at the April meeting of the Society. Winners are invited, but are not required, to appear with parents and/or teachers to receive their awards. The Georgia Poetry Society reserves the right to publish prize-winning poems in its annual anthology, *The Reach of Song*. Until published, rights rest with the Society. After publication, or a decision not to publish, rights revert to the author

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2184
Columbus, GA 31902
(706) 221-4370

Email: georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com

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

CONTACTS:

Ron Self, President
PO Box 751
Columbus, Georgia 31902
SMRWS@aol.com

Dr. Robert Simon, Contest Chair
rob1701b@aol.com

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Combak1@wmconnect.com

Linda Ames, Editor, Newsletter Editor
4816 Saint Francis Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31904
linaka31904grace@knology.net

To become a member of the Georgia Poetry Society, see website for membership information and application.

OTHER GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Quarterly meetings
Annual *Reach of Song* anthology
Poetry in the Schools Projects
Poetry RoadShow

The Reach of Song **Order Form**

Time to Order Your Copies of 2008 Reach of Song. Please use the form below to send your order, with check.

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>
<i>The Reach of Song 2008—Advance Order</i> (Price \$13.50; \$15 after August 31, 2008; includes S/H; delivery at July 19, 2008 quarterly meeting or by mail September, 2008)	_____	\$ _____

I wish to extend poetry by giving my local or school library a copy of <i>The Reach of Song 2008</i> (price \$13.50; \$15 after Aug. 31, 2008; include S/H; delivery Sept., 2008 with notice of your donation.)	_____	\$ _____
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Name, address of library: _____

_____ I prefer to deliver the copy personally to my library.

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Complete information below, include check or money order (these constitute your receipt) made out to Georgia Poetry Society, and mail to: *The Reach of Song*, Georgia Poetry Society, 8020 Royal St. Georges Lane, Duluth, GA 30097.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ (home) _____ (work)

FROM: Georgia Poetry Society PO Box 2184 Columbus GA 31902 Email: georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com URL: http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/	To: <div style="height: 150px; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
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