



GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY: SERVING GEORGIA'S POETS SINCE 1979
Volume 30, Number 4: Winter 2009

DR. LINDA TAYLOR, GUEST SPEAKER FOR GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY'S 120TH QUARTERLY MEETING AT OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY, 31 JANUARY 2009

Happy New Year!

Please mark your new 2009 calendars for the January 31st meeting, later this year but worth the wait! Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the English Department there, we will return once again to the beautiful campus of historic Oglethorpe University. (See map below). We have a splendid program and Awards Luncheon planned, a great start to a new year of enjoying and promoting poetry. (See the agenda on Page 2.)



We are pleased to announce our featured poet will be Dr. Linda Taylor. You may remember her from our Emory meeting when she conducted a most helpful workshop and generously gave individual critiques afterward.

Dr. Taylor (A.B., Cornell University; Ph.D., Brown University) is a Professor of English at Oglethorpe University. Her teaching and research interests are modern poetry, 19th and 20th century American literature, short fiction, and writing poetry, prose, and autobiography. She is an author of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Dr. Taylor has published nearly 70 poems in a number of journals, including *The Georgia Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Ohio Review*, and *The Black Warrior Review*.

Our annual Awards Luncheon will be a buffet meal of Chicken Marsala (or a vegetarian pasta entrée),

potatoes or rice, vegetables, and dessert (see order blank at end). During the luncheon, awards will be presented to the winners of the GPS sponsored contests and the 2009 officers will be installed. Following lunch, the Society will recognize charter and 20-year members.

The afternoon will be filled with interesting and informative topics, including a workshop on how to be part of Poets in the Schools by long-time member and ambassador for poetry, Jean Mahavier, and a call for submissions with explanation as to how *The Reach of Song* is produced by Editor Tonette Long. I will finish the day by reading from the works of James Dickey, regarded as one of Georgia's finest poets.

Looking forward to seeing you at Oglethorpe!

Clela Reed, Vice President
Vice-President and Program Chair
clelareed@gmail.com
706-546-9554

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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.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU RECRUITED A NEW MEMBER FOR GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY?

AGENDA

120TH QUARTERLY GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY MEETING

January 31, 2009

9:30 a.m.	Coffee and Registration, Member Readings Sign-up
9:45 a.m.	Welcome: Ron Self
	Overview of Day's Events: Clela Reed
	Announcements
10:00 a.m.	Member Readings
11:00 a.m.	Break
11:10 a.m.	Dr. Linda Taylor, Featured Poet
11:40 a.m.	Q&A and book signing
12:00 p.m.	Awards Luncheon
	Recognition of Winners: Robert Simon
	Installation of Officers: Herbert Denmark
1:30 p.m.	Recognition of Charter Members and GPS Guiding Lights
1:45 p.m.	<i>The Reach of Song</i> – Submission Process: Tonette Long
2:00 p.m.	Poets in the Schools: Jean Mahavier
2:30 p.m.	The Poetry of James Dickey: Clela Reed
3:00 p.m.	Adjournment; Board Meeting

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Word "Passion" Comes to Mind in Excess of Five Times. As I step into the role of President of Georgia Poetry Society (GPS), I feel I should introduce myself and offer a few words about my passion for our organization.

The introduction first. I was born and grew-up in New York State. In 1994, I moved to Athens, Georgia. I'm forty years old and have been writing poetry for over 20 years. Both my bachelors and masters degrees are in English Literature.

I dearly love my wife Christina. We currently live in Phenix City, Alabama where I am the Assistant to the Pastor at a local Methodist church.

My poems are published or forthcoming in *Oxalis*, *Monkey*, *The Reach of Song*, *Rambunctious Review*, *Birmingham Arts Journal*, and *FutureCycle Poetry*. For me, the performance of poetry aloud is as important as the written page—which explains the hundreds of poetry readings I've participated in over the years. I'm also a big enthusiast about revision and being in community with fellow poets, motivating my active participation in the local poetry workshops in Columbus, GA. These are focused gatherings where poets give each other feedback and suggestions for improving their poems. (If you don't have a poetry workshop near you, I urge you to start one; it may do wonders for your writing!)

Now let's move on to my passion for our organization. My relationship with GPS began in 1997 when I made my way to a quarterly meeting in Atlanta. I remember the warm reception I received and how I was urged to read a poem in the "Member Readings" section of the program. How I enjoyed hearing so many different voices and such a variety of styles of poetry. It impressed me to see such an encouraging spirit among the members of the group. I felt as if I were "home."

Since that first meeting, I have served as webmaster, newsletter editor, publicist, and board member for GPS. I urge and encourage all of you to volunteer to help with some aspect of GPS. We are a non-profit organization, driven by our passion for poetry and relying entirely on volunteer power. In other words, your creativity and passion is needed!

Over the years, my experiences at the society meetings have enhanced the sense of value I find in GPS membership. My favorite thing about GPS is the camaraderie among poets—all of us giving each other energy and encouragement to write our visions, revise and craft our writing, and send it into the world as we enter contests or submit for publication.

In addition, we get to hear fabulous poets, the likes of Beth Gylys, Thomas Lux, and the late John Stone—contemporary poets of the highest quality. Through our chapbook competition, we participate in "discovering" poets who, as is often the case, have been diligently honing their craft over the years while we were unawares. From time to time, we hear extraordinary lectures on poets or poetry, encouraging our journey in learning more about our craft.

And who could forget the inspiration—and fun—we get from participating in our frequent poetry workshops? It's great to hear the spontaneous results and more than once I've come away with a workable poem. Not to mention the plethora of contests and the chance at getting published in *The Reach of Song*. (Why not mention them? Well, most folks mention those things first, so I chose to be contrary!)

I see my job as president to be the passionate keeper of the flame that is GPS, aiming to encourage all of you to attend as many meetings as possible and to participate as fully as possible in all GPS activities. As we grow in our craft together, I'm sure we'll influence each other to greater heights!

Keith Badowski

CHARTER AND 20 YEAR MEMBERS TO BE RECOGNIZED.

As part of the awards luncheon at the January 31st quarterly meeting at Oglethorpe University, GPS charter and 20 year members will be recognized for their dedication and years of service to poetry. Your help is needed to make sure all current members who fall these categories are identified and recognized.

Charter members by definition are those individuals who joined the society during its first year of operation, 1979-1980. The following have been identified as charter members who are still active members: joann Yeager Adkins, Herbert Denmark, Delores Denmark, Jeanne Osborne Gibbs Shaw, Betty Gore, Janet Habas, Ethelene Dyer Jones, Janice T. Moore, Memye Curtis Tucker, Betty Wallace, and Dorthy Williamson Worth.

In addition to these charter members, the following have been identified as 20-year GPS veterans: Mildred Barthel, Angela Burns, Della Cook, Bill Griffin, Robert Hays, Georgia Henry-Pierson, Albert Horrell, Catherine P. Maze, Frank mckenney, John Ottley, Jr., Pat Posey, Leland Staven, Klea Stillwell, and Emily Vail.

If you or someone you know should be on these lists and has been overlooked, please notify Ron Self at smrws@aol.com or 706-649-3080 as soon as possible so that this list can be complete and the members properly recognized. If you are on the list and know you should not be, also please notify Ron.

The Georgia Poetry Society of today would not be what it is without the contributions and faithful service of these long-term members.

CONFERENCE, FORUMS, AND OPEN MICS

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).

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.

JOHNS CREEK POETRY WRITING GROUP

Convenes each fourth Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, at Northeast Spruill Oaks Regional Library, on Old Alabama Road, two miles west of Highway 141. Program includes a featured poet, workshop, and group critiquing of member poems. For information contact Bob Lynn (770-876-2904, robertlynn@comcast.net).

COLUMBUS OPEN MIC

Meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Columbus Public Library, 3000 Macon Road. Poetry Workshop meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at 513 Broadway. Call 706-649-3080 for information.

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/>.

PINE MOUNTAIN POETS

A poetry workshop group that meets twice monthly in Pine Mountain. Contact Jeanne Koone at JL.Koone@aol.com for place and time.

GPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| * DuAnne Kiser | * Ann GilesPie | * Lynda Holmes |
| * Wilson Williams, Jr. | * Alan W. Watts family | * Victor L. Crouch |
| * Ellison Turner | * Teresa (Teena) Swift | * Jody Adams |

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Powell Dickson, born near Sylvester, Georgia, was the daughter of hard-working farmers, though her mother was a college graduate. Virginia attended the University of Georgia as a journalism major and met her then-future husband, Charles B. Dickson on an assignment that took her to the Atlanta Journal Constitution. They married and had two children, Diane and Michael. Virginia was a stay-at-home mom until Diane entered elementary school, when she became a school teacher and later a school librarian. She often stated how much she enjoyed her library work.

Virginia may be remembered most by friends and family for her interest in politics. Sunday was time for Meet the Press and dinnertime included a discussion of the news of the day. After retirement, Virginia enjoyed drives to North Georgia with Charles while actively supporting his work as a poet in organizations, which included the Georgia Poetry Society.

Virginia survived her husband by 17 years. She enjoyed her circle of bridge companions as well as visits from her children and a grandchild, Celeste. Virginia, 90, passed away peacefully in early January. She is missed by her family and many friends.

The GPS bi-annual chapbook competition is named in honor and memory of Charles B. Dickson, an internationally respected poet of the haiku. He was author of A Touch of Wholeness, Taste of Summer, Fragrance of Frost Grapes, and Out of Cassiopeia.

"Charlie, as Virginia and his friends refer to him, was a freelance writer and professional journalist from Georgia whose poetry, articles and short fiction were published in the United States and abroad. His interest in haiku began in 1984 and his haiku became widely published almost immediately. His awards include The Museum of Haiku Literature Award and first place in the Harold G. Henderson Memorial Awards.

"What I love best about his haiku is the way he gracefully wove beautiful words into haunting images. It is clear from reading the tributes written by other haiku poets that his unique voice touched many. It is our hope in sharing some of his work here that many more might discover the treasure of his words, and that old friends might stop by to revisit old favorites." See: <http://home.gci.net/~alaskahaiku/guestpoet.html>.

MEMBER NEWS

Pat Zeller, wife of past president **Jerry Zeller**, who died in July 2008 writes: *"Dear Georgia Poetry Society Members, I was deeply moved by your letter of gratitude for Jerry's life and have shared it with the family. Until his death, he continued to cherish his time with you and was excited by your creative energy. Thank you. Pat Zeller"*

Keith Badowski's poem "Dream Theory" has been accepted at *Birmingham Arts Journal* and is slated for publication in the April 2009 issue. Keith's poem "Pursuit of the Sweet Spot" will be published in January at *FutureCycle Poetry* (www.futurecycle.org).

In an October 9 interview with the BBC/London, **Deborah Hawthorne-Tainsh** spoke about how writing poetry and prose is a wonderful tool for cathartic purposes and validation of life's experiences, especially grief. She was asked to read aloud two of the poems she had written since (David's and her son) Patrick's death (Iraq 2006), "Outside the Windows" and "No Matter the Years."

This interview occurred as the result of being contacted by a gentleman from London who had heard about her writing; he asked her to contribute to an anthology titled *Voices of Poppies*, a compilation of poems by those who have lost a loved one at war. She was also asked to write a Forward and contribute a poem. Deb says, *"I was privileged to share our story and the poems with the Brits! The host made me feel really great... told me my poems were 'brilliant.' My ego was boosted for the day!"*

The website for the organization is: <http://www.flowforall.org/voicesofthepoppies.asp> (a beautiful website). *Voices of Poppies* will be introduced in London, November 1, 2008.

Larry Hand's pantoum, "While Daises Grow in Freedom Square," won Second Place in Poets' Forum Magazine's Joseph V. Hickey Memorial Award. Though honored, the poem was not published. (Congratulations!)

Alice Teeter's double sestina poem "The 103rd Birthday of Emma Regina DeGraffenreid Smith" has been published in *PerContra*, an online literary magazine. Go to www.percontra.net, then click on Poetry.

The Phenix City (Alabama) Library is hosted a poetry reading and open mic in December and expected several students from Central High to participate. **Dr. Jean Copland, Freddie Riley, and Brenda Moore** were the featured poets. Martha Noyes, Director of the Phenix City Library, hopes to make poetry readings a regular event, so anyone in the Columbus area, please consider attending.

During the previous quarter, Dr. **Jean Copland** and **Hilde Holmes** went to Harris County High School for a 90-minute poetry workshop with a group of Honors ninth Graders. She stated, "It was quite exciting to be face to face with students again! Those 9th Graders were terrific! Good writers/listeners/thinkers, too. We had a great time."

Thirty-five poets and lovers of poetry gathered in Pine Mountain, Georgia on one chilly fall night for what the Harris County Journal called a "Verse Case Scenario" – or otherwise, *Reach of Song* reading and signing event. Ten area *Reach of Song* contributors read their poems. The poems of four other *Reach of Song* contributors (not present) were read by members of the Pine Mountain Poets. Participating poets included Youth Contest winners Anne Henley Walker and Bennett Walker of Mountain Hill Elementary School, and adults **Ellouise Connolly, Frances Daniel, Deuce Douglass, Hilde Holmes, Jeanne Koone, Jo Middlebrooks, Mario Mion, and Ron Self**. Other poets whose work was read were **Joe Alberti, Mary Lisby, Freddie Riley** and **Deborah Tainsh**. Jeanne and several other Pine Mountain Poets (workshop group that meets twice monthly in Pine Mountain) made all the arrangements and provided refreshments.

"What a nice opportunity to share the publication of my first book, OUT HERE," says **Ginger Murchison**. Ginger, who assisted in the founding of POETRY at TECH, the poetry program at Georgia Institute of Technology, is a two-time Pushcart nominee. She is Editor of *The Cortland Review*, and has published articles, book reviews and interviews. Her poems have appeared recently in *Atlanta Review*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *Terminus Magazine* and Volumes II and III of *Java Monkey Speaks: A Poetry Anthology*. She is currently completing her M.F.A. in poetry at Warren Wilson College. For a copy of Ginger's book, please contact Jeanne Duval Editions, 201-C 5th St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* The Poetry Society of Georgia (Savannah) announces their 2009 Reading Series. PSG President Tony Morris invites members of the Georgia Poetry Society to its free Poetry Reading Series for 2009. Noteworthy poets will include Judith Ortiz Cofer (Feb. 7), Erica Dawson (Feb. 17), Melanie Almeder (March 17), and Joseph Harrison (April 21). All readings will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Books on Bay Bookstore, 224 W. Bay Street in downtown Savannah. Judith Cofer now lives in Georgia. Her poems, essays and novels explore the experience of being Puerto Rican in the U.S. Her prose/poetry collection, *The Latin Deli*, won the Ainsfield Wolf Award in Race Relations. Her most recent of three collections of poetry is *A Love Story Beginning* in Spanish. Dawson's collection, *Big-Eyed Afraid*, won the 2006 Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize and was named 2007's best debut by Contemporary Poetry Magazine. Atlanta native Almeder has a collection, *On Dream Street*, which was a finalist in a number of presses' first book awards. Her poems have been published in *The Georgia Review*, *Poetry*, *Five Points*, *Seneca Review*, *The Comstock Review*, and *American Literary Review*. Holding a PhD from the University of Florida, she teaches at Roanoke College in Virginia. Harrison's first book of poems, *Someone Else's Name*, was named one of five poetry books of the year for 2004 by *The Washington Post*; his second book, *Identity Theft*, was published in 2008. *The Antioch Review*, *The Boston Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *Parnassus*, *The Paris Review*, *Raritan*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Southwest Review*, and *The Yale Review* have also published his verse.

GPS members who wish to carpool to one of these readings, please contact Bob Lynn at 770-876-2904 or by e-mail robertlynn@comcast.net

* The Great American Poetry Show (TGAPS) <http://www.tgaps.net/> is a serial poetry anthology open year-round to submissions of poems in English on any subject and in any style, length and number. Email poems only by one attachment in just one email to info@tgaps.net or mail your poems to The Great American Poetry Show, P.O. Box 69506, West Hollywood, California 90069. TGAPS prefers submission by email attachment, but you can email your poems in the body of the email. Do not send more than one attachment per email. Editors will review each poem. Simultaneous submissions and previously published poems are welcome. Response time is usually one to three months. If you don't receive a response within three months, please feel free to contact us to ask about your submission. Each contributor receives one free copy of the volume in which his/her work appears. Volume 2 is scheduled to appear in June 2009. Please see our website where you can preview Volume 1 of TGAPS. The ebook is priced especially low for use in poetry and creative-writing classes. Contact: Larry Ziman (info@thegreatamericanpoetryshow.com)

FINAL DEADLINE NOTICE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO *THE REACH OF SONG* 2009

For the 2009 volume of *The Reach of Song*, Editor Tonette T. Long will accept submissions postmarked through Monday, 16 February 2009, from members in good standing of the Georgia Poetry Society. The volume, featuring youth and adult contest winners from the 2008 year, will be available at the July 2009 quarterly GPS meeting. Members are encouraged to submit their work for the portion of the volume reserved for open submissions by GPS members.

Please submit two poems for consideration. Include two carefully typed copies of each work, one copy with your name and address. Entries must be 40 lines or fewer, (2) must have not been published in *The Reach of Song*, and (3) must have not won a cash prize in any state-wide poetry competition. Submissions may be on any subject and may follow any form. The two nonmember judges will rank the works. Those receiving highest marks will qualify for First-, Second-, and Third-Place Awards of Excellence. Recipients of these awards will receive six, four, or two free copies, respectively, of *The Reach of Song* 2009. No more than one poem per poet will be included in the member section.

The Georgia Poetry Society strongly encourages all current members to submit works for *The Reach of Song* 2009, although membership does not guarantee inclusion.

Submissions must be postmarked no later than 16 February 2009. Send them to:

The Reach of Song
Tonette T. Long, Editor
Georgia Poetry Society
P.O. Box 1776
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Entries may also be sent by email to skylark39@windstream.net. Member questions may be posed by email or by telephone call to 706-864-6801.

Copies of 2008, 2006-07, 2003-04, and 2001-02 volumes of *The Reach of Song*, as well as advance copies of 2009, may be ordered by mail only on the enclosed form. Payment by check or money order, payable to **Georgia Poetry Society**, must be included. On the form, members may purchase a copy or copies of the anthology to donate to the library(s) or school(s) of their choice. These copies will be mailed with a donation letter to the library (please include full address) the donor designates. At last count, 28 copies of the 2008 volume were given to Georgia libraries by GPS members.

All GPS members are encouraged to submit their best poems for this 2009 anthology. All entrants will be kept informed of the process, the selection process will be even-handed, and each poet will receive a proof of the poem chosen for publication.

ORDER FORM—*The Reach of Song 2009*

Quantity Subtotal

The Reach of Song 2009—Advance Order

(Price \$13.50; \$15.00 after August 31, 2009; includes s/h; delivery at July 18, 2009, quarterly meeting or by mail September 2009)

I wish to extend poetry by giving my local or school library a copy of *The Reach of Song 2009*

(price \$13.50; \$15 after Aug. 31, 2009; include s/h; delivery September 2009 with notice of donation.)

Name, full address of library: _____

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

The Reach of Song 2008

(\$15.00, includes s/h)

The Reach of Song 2006-07

(\$13.50; includes s/h)

The Reach of Song 2003-04

(\$7.50; includes s/h)

The Reach of Song 2001-02

\$3.50; includes s/h)

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
P. O. Box 1776
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

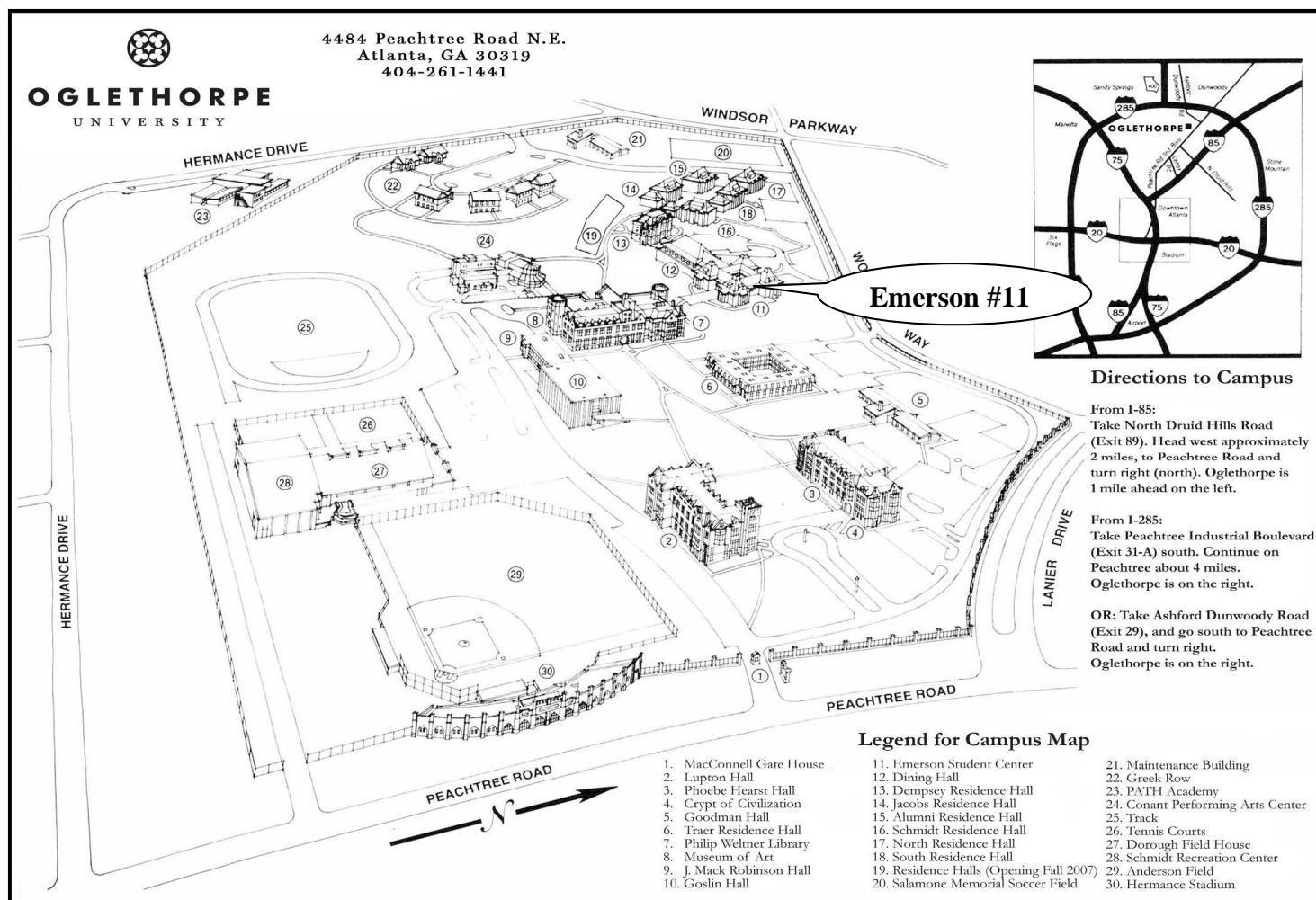
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ (home) _____ (work)

EMAIL _____ WEBSITE _____

MEETING INFORMATION

Our meeting sessions will take place in the **Tallmadge Room of Emerson Student Center Hall (Bldg. 11)**



LUNCH RESERVATION (\$18.50 per meal)

Please make checks out to the **Georgia Poetry Society** and mail to:

T. Hensel

PO Box 999

Alpharetta, GA 30009

Postmark not later than January 22, 2009

Clip and send

Name(s): _____

Chicken _____ or Vegetarian (pasta) _____

Total payment: \$ _____