

GEORGIA POETRY 50CIETY NEWSLETTER

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY: SERVING GEORGIA'S POETS SINCE 1979 Volume 31, Number 1: Spring 2009

GINGER MURCHISON TO PRESENT AT GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY'S 121st QUARTERLY MEETING



What an exciting program has been planned for the next GPS meeting. Get your calendars out and mark them for this event 25 April 2009!

Ginger Murchison will be our featured poet in the morning program. Ginger is currently a candidate for an

MFA in poetry at Warren Wilson College and editor of **The Cortland Review**. She assisted in the founding of Georgia Tech's poetry program, "POETRY at TECH", while working there for seven years. She is a two-time Pushcart nominee and her poems have appeared in **Atlanta Review**, **The Chattahoochee Review**, **Terminus Magazine** and in Volumes II and III of **Java Monkey Speaks: A Poetry Anthology**. Her chapbook **Out Here**, was recently released by Jeanne Duval Editions.

BOOK IN BRIEF: Out Here By Ginger Murchison Review by Keith Badowski

Ginger Murchison's first collection of poems, **Out Here**, from Jeanne Duval Editions, provided me with hours of delighted reading and re-reading as I carefully took note of the focused voice of each poem and the attention to concrete details that make for vibrant writing.

The 27 poems presented here are all incredibly tight creations, not a one spanning more than a page in length. Murchison proves herself to be a meticulous crafter of language, allowing only the words that are needed for the poem, nothing more, nothing less. But that doesn't mean she skimps on the delights of poetic devices.

The title poem "Out Here" with its attention to recurring sounds and energetic use of personification, takes the reader on a naturalistic journey from regret to renewal.

There's a strong sonic thread of repeated 'm' sounds: me, remembers, minimal, monumental, mistakes, and moldering. And this lovely alliterative (Continued on Page 2)



THE BLANK NOTEBOOK

By Keith Badowski

Prior to my passion for poetry, it was comics—first Charlie Brown and then Spider-Man. I practiced drawing Snoopy as one continuous contour line, lifting the pen only when his leg

met his distended belly, so I could darken his teardrop ear with scribbles and draw on his collar.

In childhood, I lost track of so many things: how many times I copied Charles Schultz, how many times I scanned the stationary isle while my parents shopped for groceries. How magnetized I was to the tablet of unlined paper and how filled I was with the anticipation of comic strips I would draw--copying the Sunday comics in pencil, cramming in the speech and thought balloons, carefully putting the printed words inside, tracing overtop it all in black ballpoint ink. When Mom would agree to place the tablet of paper in the shopping cart, she'd make me promise to use it all up, every page, before asking for another. Most likely she knew I'd never use the entirety of any tablet I'd been granted.

Yes, as my wife knows, it's the same story today; I buy a new notebook—a book of blankness, bursting with the untapped energy of potential: a novel might finally get written or a sequence of sonnets to put the Bard to shame or the creation of an iconic character, the likes of Spider-Man or Sherlock Holmes.

I own four-hundred and forty notebooks, all of which have been written in, but still include some or even many blank pages. I have never completed a novel and never written a single sonnet with which I've been completely satisfied. Yet, I bought this new notebook on which I am

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

AGENDA

121ST GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY QUARTERLY MEETING SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH 2009

Georgia Center for Continuing Education (UGA) 1197 South Lumpkin Street, Athens, Georgia 30602-3603 800-488-7827

9:15 a.m.	Coffee and Registration, Member Readings Sign-up
9:45 a.m.	Announcements
9:50 a.m.	Member Readings I
10:20 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Spotlight on Student Poets in UGA's Creative Writing Program
11:00 a.m.	Featured Poet- Ginger Murchison
12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Youth Contest Awards
1:45 p.m.	Break
2:00 p.m.	Member Readings II
2:30 p.m.	Reminder: July meeting at Kennesaw State University, etc.
3:00 p.m.	Adjournment; Board Meeting

The Blank Notebook (Continued from Page 1)

writing with the antsy hope that the freezer-box of my head might defrost, that the blank yet lined pages might siphon some words from me.

This notebook actually sat untouched in my junk-mail pile in the kitchen for a week. Its red cover taunted me, as if to say, 'Stop! Write, if you can.' But none of it worked even though I'd felt that same childhood excitement in the checkout line, that inner mantra of 'My notebook, mine! My notebook, mine!' as I carried it to my car.

Late one night, while in bed, the notebook out of sight but yet in mind, I told my wife that it's been ages since I've written anything, "My creativity has dried up." In the dark, I heard her say, "Why don't you go out and treat yourself to a brand new notebook--a fresh start."

I snuggled up right against her and wrapped my arms around her and told her how much I loved her and how sweet it was that she would say that, especially when in our office there are so many unfinished notebooks. I confessed too that I'd already splurged on such a purchase, that this red notebook lay awaiting my pen and how no new writing had yet occurred. I confessed that I'd wasted an hour in the morning on checking email and browsing the web for TV and movie gossip. And I told her of the boy I'd once been who had rejoiced at the fresh blank tablet, what a thrill it had been to receive that collection of potential.

The conversation between me and my wife happened last night, and my heart is still full from my wife's generous suggestion. Sure, a notebook costs so little, but it seems extravagance when you've got shelves full in the other room. I'm grateful for her blessing upon my creative endeavor, even though she categorizes most of what I write as 'so weird.' This time it took her love to loose these words, to bless the moving of my pen. Her love ignited this—what I have written this morning.

Keith Badowski

Book in Brief (Continued from Page 1)

line: 'rich with the rot of river...' Through personification the naturalistic scene takes on personality and human significance. The shadows want, the headwaters think, the roots can't see, and the wind tries to look busy. Although the tone starts out in gloomy disappointment, the poem ends with a playful sense of optimism and refreshment.

Another example of Murchison's charms is the vivid details of "Croagh Patrick" which deals with the pressures of a Catholic upbringing. The speaker sarcastically refers to the "debt I owed for being born" and how Father Thomas told her "the biggest room/in the world was the room for improvement." I smiled in sympathy as the poem opened up the scene. My inner-eye was held by the details of Dad's pajamas, the Big Chief tablet of paper and the smudge on a page, and, best of all, her description of the stance for ironing: 'that tiptoed, breath-holding/ whole-body pose, the kind you see applied in the high jump . . .' Obviously, humor is a big component of Murchison's voice.

If you long for a poetry volume that will engage your ear, your mind, your senses, and your funny bone, **Out Here** by Ginger Murchison is not to be missed! ~~ Keith Badowski

LOOKING FOR A TAX DEDUCTION?

Your Georgia Poetry Society is a 501©(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. Please contact Terry Hensel for further information (tlhensel@comcast.net).

A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH THE REACH OF SONG 2009

Tonette Taylor Long is seeking an Assistant Editor for Distribution and Promotion (Position Description):

- Mandle distribution of new Reach of Song anthologies at July quarterly meeting
- Package and mail new ROS editions to fill prepaid and new orders for those not attending the July quarterly meeting
- Package and mail paid orders for past editions
- Rackage and mail gift copies of current edition to contest winners and others due gratis copies
- Handle member donor gifts of current anthologies to selected libraries:
 - 1. Prepare and send acceptance reply cards and donor identification letters to recipient libraries
 - 2. Package and mail donor copies to receptive libraries
 - 3. Find alternate recipients for non-receptive libraries; package and mail donor copies
 - 4. Prepare and send letters to donors acknowledging donation(s)Fill ongoing orders for new and past editions of ROS
- Maintain accurate inventory records for all ROS editions
- Display and promote sale of ROS editions at all quarterly meetings
- Maintain record of expenses, including receipts, for reimbursement
- Note: The first five tasks are spread over the two months following the July regional meeting and account for the greatest expenditures of time. The other tasks, except for attending the quarterly meetings when possible, are ongoing and much less time intensive.

Please contact Tonette Long, 706-864-6801, email skylark39@windstream.net, for further information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poetry Competition. The Chamblee Branch of the DeKalb County Library System will be having a poetry competition on Sunday, **April 26** from 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm. We are looking for three people to judge this competition and every one is invited to enter a poem. For questions, contact Kitty Wilson, Branch Manager at the Chamblee Library (DeKalb County Public Library), 4115 Clairmont Road, Chamblee, GA 30341 (770-936-1380) or by email: wilsonk@dekalblibrary.org.

RoadShow. The Greensboro Writing Guild has invited the GPS RoadShow to a meeting Thursday, April 9 (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.) at the Lake Oconee Welcome Center on Route 44. For more information, please contact Gay Williford (gaynjohn@gmail.com).

CONFERENCE, FORUMS, AND OPEN MICS

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, robertllynn@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 JLKoone@aol.com for place and time.

POETRY ROADSHOW. On Thursday, April 9 1 to 4 p. m. four GPS poets will be joining the Greensboro Writers' Guild for a Poetry RoadShow at the Lake Oconee Welcome Center in Greensboro, GA. GPS poets participating will include Clela Reed, JC Reilly, Larry Hand and Ron Self. Others are invited to attend and participate in the open mic portion of the program.

GPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

- * Henry Wise, College Park
- ★ Karen Holmes, Atlanta
- Mary Williams, Columbus
- Betsy Hollis-Frey, Pine Mountain
- Max Grimm, Duluth

Member News

Ron Self received acknowledgement that his poem "Invocation" is one of seven poems chosen as an invocation for the National Federation of State Poetry Society convention banquets coming up in June in Duluth Minnesota.

The long lost collection of work of Carrie Fall Benson (1891-1949) – **The Pen of Carrie Fall Benson** – discovered by GPS member Louise "Biddy" Hammett will be published by LaGrange College and available in May. Benson, born in LaGrange was an early realist poet of

Georgia. She was a member of and highly awarded in a variety of early Georgia poetry societies and writers' groups that met at Oglethorpe and Emory Universities. Benson received scores of awards for her poetry, including the Gould Award for her poem, "There Is Loneliness." Ron Self provided information for the jacket flap and Bettie Sellers, Poet Laureate of Georgia 2997-2001 wrote the Foreword.

Alice Teeter announces the publication of her book: When It Happens To You: Poems. Copies can be ordered by sending \$12.95 plus \$6.00 shipping and handling to Star Cloud Press or to Alice Teeter or through www.starcloudpress.com or www.amazon.com.

Jill Jennings will be reading from her book, The Poetry Alarm Clock in Canton, Georgia at Yawn's Books, 210 East Main Street. The reading and signing are scheduled for 2 pm Saturday, April 4. The event is free and open to the public. For further information, contact Jill at magistra_iennings@vahoo.com. Also, Jill will be the featured poet at the Johns Creek Poetry Group on Saturday, May 2nd. In addition to reading from ...Alarm Clock, she will conduct a workshop on the craft of writing poetry, emphasizing the borrowing of the poetic techniques of classical Latin and Greek poetry to create modern poems in English. This group meets at The Robert Fulton Regional Library, 5090 Abbotts Bridge Road, Alpharetta, GA. For further information, contact Bob Lynn at 770-876-2904, robertllynn@comcast.net.

Ginger Murchison announces the publication of her first book, **Out Here**, which can be ordered through Jeanne Duval Editions, 201-C 5th St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308 for just \$5.00 + 1.75 postage.

Emily Blake Vail announces the recent publication of two books: **Poems: This Fragile Earth** as well as a young adult romance, **Mist** in the Heart.

Emery Campbell was the featured reader from his book This Gardener's Impossible Dream at the March 28, 2009 meeting of the Johns Creek poetry group. Each meeting of this group includes a principal reader plus a critiquing session during which participants invite constructive comments on one of their poems.

A NOTE ABOUT MEMBER READINGS

The "Member Readings" segment of our quarterly meetings is certainly one of the most popular on the agenda. Poets love to share their work with an audience, and where can you get a more appreciative audience than the membership of GPS?

For many years now, members participating in the reading segment have been asked to do two things, 1) please keep it short and 2) please leave off the introduction. Both of these guidelines are to address our limited time. So, when selecting your poem to read, please pick one that is fairly short, about 30 lines or less. We also ask that you give no introduction, other than the title. And remember that each reader gets to read one poem. Such considerations are necessary due to time constraints and the high demand for a place in the line-up.

At our April meeting, we're trying something new; the "Member Readings" will be split into two sessions, each 30 minutes long. There's one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Not all of us are blessed with the ability to listen intently for long periods of time. Having shorter segments is intended to enhance our listening enjoyment.

Remember that space is limited for the "Member Readings," so it's important to sign up as soon as you arrive, starting at 9:15 am. Unfortunately, those who sign up toward the end of the list might not get to read if time runs short. Like so many other very popular "open mics" around the country, ours by necessity has to operate on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

120TH QUARTERLY MEETING ~~~ MEMBER READINGS



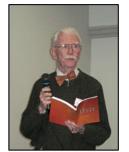
Charles Cook



Ethelene Dver Jones



Robert Simon



Frank McKenny



Jean Mahavier



DuAnne Kaiser



Lou Jones



George Williams



Gay Williford



Alan Watts



William F. "Bill" Broome



Tonette Taylor Long



Nora Maiden



Alice Teeter



Lee Staven



Herbert Denmark



Janice Moore



David Hightower



Rosemary Mauldin



Jeanne Osborne Shaw



2009 GPS SLATE OF OFFICERS: L-R: Ron Self (*), Tonette Taylor Long(*), Keith Badowski (President), Jill Jennings (Secretary), Steven Shields(*), Berthena Lankford(*), J.C. Reilly(*), Robert Simon (Vice President), and Terry Hensel (Treasurer) *Directorat-Large



CHARTER MEMBERS STILL SERVING: Dorothy Williamson Worth, Herbert Denmark, Delores Denmark, Janice Moore, Ethelene Dyer Jones, Janet Habas (Individuals not available: Pat Posey, Memye Curtis Tucker, Betty Wallace)

DIRECTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION CONFERENCE CENTER & HOTEL

Traveling North

1. US 129/441, Macon

Take US 129/441 to Athens. (Near Watkinsville, Highway 15 and US 129 join.) Approaching Athens, at the Athens-Clarke County line, there will be a sign indicating Highway 441 North and a right turn (there will also be a sign for the University of Georgia). Turn right at this sign onto the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10). Proceed on Loop 10 until reaching Exit #7, the College Station Road exit. Exit off Loop 10, then turn left onto College Station Road. Go under the Bypass (Loop) bridge, then to the third traffic light. Turn right onto East Campus Road.

2. GA 106

Take GA 106 South to Athens. GA 106 joins the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10). Follow Loop 10 West to College Station Road (Exit #7). Exit at College Station Road and turn right. Go to the second light and turn right onto East Campus Road.

3. US 129. Jefferson

Travel south on US 129 to Athens. Upon reaching the outskirts of Athens, remain on Highway 129, crossing the bridge which passes over the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10). At the traffic light after the bridge, turn left onto the Athens Perimeter/Loop 10. Follow Loop 10 eastbound to the fourth exit and exit to the right in order to stay on Loop 10. Go to College Station Road (Exit #7). Exit at College Station Road and turn right. Go to the second light and turn right onto East Campus Road.

Traveling South US 441, Commerce

From Commerce, take US 441 South for approximately 20 miles. Travel under the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10) and make an immediate left onto the Perimeter. Continue on the Athens Perimeter, following the signs for GA Loop 10 (you will have to exit to stay on the Loop) to College Station Road (Exit #7). Exit at College Station Road and turn right. Go to the second light and turn right onto East Campus Road.

LUS 29, Danielsville
Take US 29 to Athens. US 29 joins
the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10).
Take Loop 10 West to College
Station Road (Exit #7). Exit at
College Station Road and turn right.
Go to the second light and turn
right onto East Campus Road.

Traveling East

US 78, Atlanta Travel east on US 78 to Athens. Exit right onto GA 316 at the stop light (note the sign for South Athens) and proceed on GA 316 to the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10). Bear right onto the Athens Perimeter/Loop 10, traveling east. (For reference purposes, there is a sign for the University of Georgia/Athens Bypass at the junction of GA 316 and the Athens Perimeter.) After approximately 5 miles on the Perimeter, exit onto College Station Road (Exit #7). Take a left onto College Station Road. Go under the Bypass (Loop) bridge, then to the third traffic light. Turn right onto East Campus Road.

2. GA 316, Atlanta

Proceed on GA 316 East for about 40 miles. Make sure not to exit at the first exit for Athens/Monroe at US 78, but continue until you see signs for the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10). Bear right onto the Perimeter, traveling east. (For reference purposes, there is a sign for the University of Georgia/Athens Bypass at the junction of GA 316 and the Athens Perimeter.) After approximately 5 miles on the Perimeter, exit onto College Station Road (Exit #7). Take a left onto College Station Road. Go under the Bypass (Loop) bridge, then to the third traffic light. Turn right onto East Campus Road.

Traveling West

1. US 78

Take US 78 West to Athens. In Athens, travel under the Athens Perimeter (GA Loop 10), then take a left at the next traffic light onto the Perimeter going westbound. Exit the Perimeter at the next exit, College Station Road (Exit #7). Turn right onto College Station Road. Go to the second light and turn right onto East Campus Road.

Directions from East Campus Road

After turning right onto East Campus Road, begin moving to the left lane. At the first traffic light, turn left onto Carlton Street. Go through one traffic light, past UGA's Stegeman Coliseum on the left, and through the second light. The Georgia Center is on the right immediately past the second light; turn right off of Carlton Street into the Georgia Center's Front Circle/Main Entrance. (The Georgia Center is located on the campus block between the intersections of Carlton Street/Sanford Drive and Carlton Street/Lumpkin Street.) See enclosed map.

Lunch Reservations, \$16 per person. "Celestial Chicken" is the meal provided; it includes breaded chicken strips with rice and sauce, roll, salad, veggies, tea and dessert.

Please make your check payable to "Georgia Poetry Society" with the notation "Lunch". Clip and send by

pril 8 postmark deadline to: Dr. Robert Simon, Department of Foreign Languages, Kennesaw	State
University, 1000 Chastain Road #1804, PS248, Kennesaw GA 30144.	
Vame(s):	
Number of orders:	
Check Total Amount (\$16 per person): \$	

