

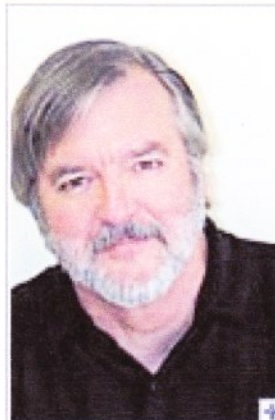
# Georgia Poetry Society

Volume 33, Issue 4

Fall 2012

## Morning Poet: Judson Mitcham, Georgia Poet Laureate

Judson Mitcham was named poet laureate of Georgia in 2012. His writings, which examine basic human themes within the specific landscape of Georgia. Mitcham was not formally trained as a writer. Instead he studied psychology at the Georgia University then taught psychology at Fort Valley State University until his retirement in 2004, with the rank of associate professor. In 2002 Mitcham began teaching workshops in poetry and fiction at Mercer University in Macon. He has also served as adjunct professor of creative writing at the University of Georgia and at Emory University, where he has directed the Summer Writers' Institute. Mitcham's poetry has appeared in such journals as *Chattahoochee Review*, *Harper's*, *Georgia Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Hudson Review*, *Poetry*, *Southern Poetry Review*, and *Southern Review*. His first poetry collection, *Somewhere in Ecclesiastes*, earned him both the Devins Award and recognition as Georgia Author of the Year, an honor bestowed annually by the Georgia Writers Association. In both his novels and his poetry, Mitcham's elegiac voice looks backward with fondness and discernment on a personal and regional past slipping rapidly beyond reach.



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## Workshop: Dr. Sue B. Walker, Alabama Poet Laureate

Sue Walker is the Stokes Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama -- and the 2003 through 2012

Poet Laureate of Alabama. Sue has published eleven books, poetry and non-fiction in addition to numerous articles on James Dickey, Flannery O'Connor, Carson McCullers, and other Southern authors. She has also written and performed her one-woman one-act play on the life of Madam Octavia LeVert. She is on the Board of the Alabama Writer's Forum, the Alabama Writer's Conclave and other state foundations. She is the publisher of Negative Capability Press. Her critical book, *The Chaismic Ecology of James Dickey* is forthcoming from Mellen Press.



**Remember to vote for Board/Officers!**

**Remember to submit Poems to the Fall Contests!**

**See You in Macon!**

### **Editor & Layout:**

Sandy Hokanson

## October 20th Quarterly Meeting Schedule

8:30-9:00	Coffee and mingling
9:00-9:15	Presidents Welcome and announcements
9:15-9:30	Open Mic
9:30-10:30	Guest Poet, Judson Mitcham, Georgia Poet Laureate
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:30	Panel Discussion - Is Poetry Dead?
11:30-11:45	Steven Shields - read from his book, <i>Valentines from Many People</i>
11:45-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:00	Workshop – Susan Walker: <i>The Prose Poem—or Why did Abigail Adams Wake Sue Walker at 2:10 a.m.?</i>
2:00-2:15	Break
2:15-2:30	Open Mic
2:30-2:45	Raffle
2:45-3:00	Closing Comments
3:00	Board Meeting

### Lunch Plans:

We will be meeting on the second floor of the Connell Student Center in **Conference Room I** and will go downstairs to the Cafeteria for lunch. Each person pays \$7.75 directly to the Cashier; no reservations are necessary.



## **DIRECTIONSTO: Mercer University, Macon, Georgia**

1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207

### **From the North (Atlanta area)**

Get to I-75 S, on the south side of Atlanta by taking either I-75/I-85 S through Atlanta, OR around Atlanta on the west with I-285 OR around Atlanta on the east with I-285/I-675 S. Take I-85 S, merge onto I-75 S and continue for about 60 miles.

Stay on I-75 S when you come to the I-475 exit. Then take exit 164. Continue past Hardeman and continue on to Forsyth St (US-41). Turn left onto Forsyth St and continue till you come to College St (about 0.4 miles). Turn right onto College St. College St. will be the entrance into Mercer College that you want to take. Go to the instructions below labeled "**Once you enter the campus**".

### **From the North (Athens area)**

Take US-129 S out of the Athens area and follow it all the way to Macon. Just before you get to I-16 in the Macon area, turn left onto US-129 Alt (2<sup>nd</sup> St). Follow 2<sup>nd</sup> St. about 1.2 miles till you come to Poplar St. and turn right onto Poplar St. Drive past 1<sup>st</sup> St Lane and then turn left onto 1<sup>st</sup> St. Follow 1<sup>st</sup> St about 0.8 miles and turn right onto Ash St. Follow Ash about 0.5 miles and turn left onto College St. which will be the entrance into Mercer College that you want to take. Go to the instructions below labeled "**Once you enter the campus**".

### **From the South**

Take I-75 N till you get to the Macon area. Stay on I-75 S when you come to the I-475 exit. Then take exit 164. At the end of the ramp turn right onto Forsyth St and continue till you come to College St (about 0.4 miles). Turn right onto College St. College St will be the entrance into Mercer College that you want to take. Go to the instructions below labeled "**Once you enter the campus**".

### **From the West (Columbus)**

Follow US-80 E all the way to the Macon area. Continue on past I-475 and turn left onto US-40 (Pio Nono Ave). In about 0.8 of a mile you will come to Montpelier Ave, turn right onto it. Montpelier Ave will dead end at Colman Ave, turn right onto Colman. The next street you come to will be College St. Turn right onto College St. which will be the entrance into Mercer College that you want to take. Go to the instructions below labeled "**Once you enter the campus**".

### **Once you enter the campus:**

The **Connell Student Center** will be the first large building on your right. You may drop passengers off then turn left onto Elm St. Elms St is the first left you come to once on the campus. You have to turn left as College St will turn into a Pedestrian Only area. Continue on Elm St, through one intersection (College Drive) and then turn left into the parking lot E. This is our assigned lot. We will be meeting in **Conference Room 1** on the second floor of Connell Student Center.



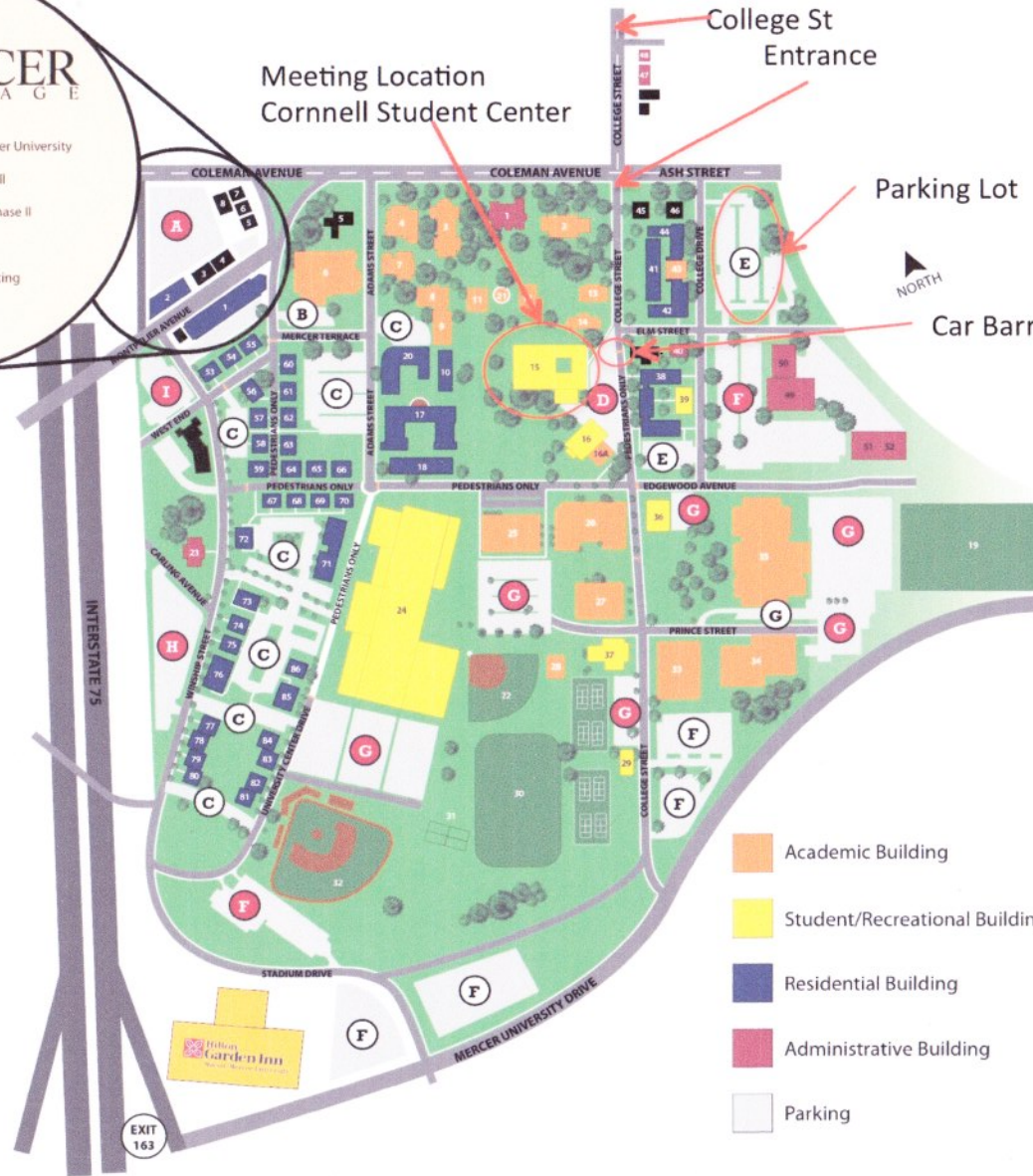
- MV1. Lofts @ Mercer Village  
 • Barnes & Noble at Mercer University  
 • Fountain of Juice  
 • Margarita's Mexican Grill  
 • Designer Tan  
 MV2. Lofts @ Mercer Village, Phase II  
 MV3. Ingleside Village Pizza  
 MV4. Jittery Joe's  
 MV5. Franca's Wings  
 MV6. Georgia Public Broadcasting  
 MV7. Rodeo Beach  
 MV8. College Hill Alliance

Meeting Location  
 Cornell Student Center

College St  
 Entrance

Parking Lot

Car Barrier



Academic Building

Student/Recreational Building

Residential Building

Administrative Building

Parking



## Upcoming Events

**September 15th - Deadline for voting for Board/Officers.** If you have any questions, contact Robert Lynn at robertlynn@comcast.net or 770-876-2904.

**September 22 - Johns Creek Poetry Group** meets 10:15 a.m. through 12 noon at Northeast Regional Library, 9560 Spruill Road, Johns Creek, GA 30022. A charter member of JCPG, Dr. Steven Shields, will read from his new book, *Valentines from Many People*.

**October 20, 2012 - Fall Quarterly Meeting at Mercer University,** Guest Poet: Judson Mitcham, Georgia Poet Laureate. Afternoon Workshop: Sue Walker, Alabama Poet Laureate. Also, Dr. Steven Shields, will read from his new book, *Valentines from Many People*.

**November 17 -** The third annual **Johns Creek Poetry Festival** at Northeast Regional Library, 9560 Spruill Road, Johns Creek, GA 30022.

**January 19, 2013 - Winter Quarterly Meeting at Kennesaw University,** Beth Gylys guest poet. Jill Jennings will read from her new book, *Dead Man's Flower*.

## Member News

**GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY FALL CONTEST:** will accept entries starting September 1st and the **Deadline:** is **November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Go to the GPS website for contest rules and guidelines, at: <http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/Contest.aspx>

**Jill Jennings** was chosen to read from her new book, *Dead Man's Flower*, a collection of poems on loss, longing, and family ties which is grounded in Maui, at the Decatur Book Festival, September 1-3. She will be reading at Java Monkey at 11 a.m. Yawn's Books is the publisher of her book.

**Emery Campbell's** poem, "Remembrance of Things Past" has been accepted for publication in the August 2012 issue of the Israeli on-line journal "Cyclamens and Swords."

**Julia Evatt** As reported by Betty Sellers, Julia died July 11th of pancreatic cancer, less than two months from diagnosis to death. Peace to her memory.

**Alice Friman Wins Georgia Author of the Year Award** - Alice has been a judge for our GPS contests for the past 3 years, and has won Georgia Author of the Year Award in poetry from Georgia Writers Association (GWA) for her fifth full-length collection of poetry, "Vinculum". The award is the oldest literary award in the Southeastern United States, and it honors Georgia's authors of excellence. Alice is Georgia College poet-in-residence. "Vinculum" can be purchased at Georgia College's Box Office Books, Amazon.com or directly from Louisiana State University Press. Visit Friman's website, [www.alicefriman.com](http://www.alicefriman.com), to

**James Green** was the guest poet , at a reading series July 11th at the Whitehouse pub in Limerick, Ireland. He says that poetry enjoys a status not found in America, and its not difficult to find a venue for the oral tradition of poetry.

**GPS President, Sandy Hokanson**, was featured in the John Creek Herald, May 31, 2012, and in the September 2012 issue of County Line Magazine.

## NFSPS News

**Attendees** - Larry Hand was Georgia Poetry Society's delegate at the National Federation of State Poetry Societies meeting. Larry and his wife Midge of Woodstock and Dian Barnett of Marietta were the three GPS attendees.

**Georgia Poetry Society Members with NFSPS Contest Wins** - Georgia had 221 poems submitted by 15 entrants in the NFSPS poetry contests. There were 8 winners with a total of 21 winning poems:

Contest #		Name	
Category	Place	& Poem	\$
4 Any/any	3rd	Joan Terry ""The Karma Kick"	50
4 Any/any	7thHM	Jill Jennings "If I"	-
9 Any	7thHM	Larry Hand "Passing in the Far Rt. Lane"	-
10 Any	7thHM	Ron Self "Almighty Bright"	-
11 Free	1stHM	Dian Barnett	-
12 Any	7thHM	Lynn Farmer "Theodore"	-
14 Any	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dian Barnett "How to Choose a Tomato"	20
21 Any/any	7thHM	Larry Hand "Ode on a Daughters Diary"	-
23 Any	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ron Self "Human"	20
24 Any/any	5thHM	Jill Jennings "Maybe"	-
29 Any	6thHM	Larry Hand "Child's Play"	-
30 Any	7thHM	Franncie Smith-Roundtree	-
31 Sonnet	3rdHM	Larry Hand "Fading Embers"	-
32 Any	2ndHM	Larry Hand "A Life Near the Banks"	-
32 Any	4thHM	Dian Barnett	-
33 Any	4thHM	Terry L. Hensel "Shooting Turtles"	-
35 Any	1 <sup>st</sup>	Dian Barnett "Consorts"	25
37 Free	1 <sup>st</sup>	Ron Self "Inadequate Instruments"	25
39 Any	5thHM	Dian Barnett	-
42 Any	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ron Self "Omen"	20
48 Acrostic	1 <sup>st</sup>	Dian Barnett "Ode to an Outrageous Peach Hat"	25



**Georgia Poetry Society Sponsored NFSPS Contest** – Theme: The American South – historical events, cultural aspects, landscapes, weather, etc. (\$150 \$75 \$25) 81 Entries, Judge: Jeremy Downes, Auburn, AL. Winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lisa Salinas, Spring, TX “1860 Census”  
2<sup>nd</sup> Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT “House Calls”  
3<sup>rd</sup> Coleen T. Ward, Melbourne, FL “Harriet Awaits the Moon”  
1HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL  
2HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX  
3HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT  
4HM Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN  
5HM Sara Gipson, Scott, AR  
6HM Frances Brinkley Cowden, Cordova, TN  
7HM Jim Barton, Huttig, AR

## Poetry Contests, Conferences and Classes

### Open to Interpretation Contest

Book Title: *Open to interpretation*

Theme: Fading Light

Judge: Jacqueline Kolosov

Submission Fee: \$20 for 3 images, \$10 additional

**Deadline for submission: November 13, 2012**

Results Announced: February 7, 2013

Results Posted Online: February 10, 2013

Awards: \$500 Judge's Selection Award

For full details go to [http://www.open2interpretation.com/submit\\_writing\\_fading\\_light.html](http://www.open2interpretation.com/submit_writing_fading_light.html)

*Open to Interpretation* brings together photographers and writers in an exciting and innovative book project that has never been done before. The photographers sent us their images of shadows, absence of light, twilight, darkness, losing light, and transformation. Now it's your turn to use the images to inspire your words. Your poems and stories may include the literal description of the work, personal memories, metaphorical associations, or your mood inspired by the image. Poetry, flash fiction, narrative, ekphrastic poetry, short story, memoir, non-fiction, song lyrics, myth, tall tale or fairy tale - all genres are acceptable.



**The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chattahoochee Valley Writers Conference** is scheduled for the last week-end in September, September 27-29 at the Columbus Public Library, and a special invitation is being extended to GPS members. On Thursday evening, September 27<sup>th</sup>, the conference kicks off with a Carson McCullers Film Festival highlighting two of the Columbus native's novels that were made into movies, **The Member of the Wedding** and **The Ballad of a Sad Café**. On Friday evening, September 28<sup>th</sup>, the conference poetry faculty, Ayodele Heath and Irene Latham, will present a joint reading. The special invitation for GPS members is to join the poets for a casual supper at the home of Ron Self before their reading. Then on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the all-day conference will include poetry workshops with Irene and Ayodele as well as a whole host of other workshops including a keynote address and presentation by best-selling author Terry Kay. The conference offers cash prizes in poetry and short story contests. And, if you've got a novel or short story ready for publication, the conference even provides a chance to sign up to have your work critiqued by an editor. For more details, check out the conference website, [chattwriters.org](http://chattwriters.org). If you want to accept the invitation to the casual supper on Friday, let Ron know by email at [smrws@aol.com](mailto:smrws@aol.com).

**Fall Teen Poetry Class in Johns Creek** - Kay Clark, the Young Adult Librarian at the Northeast/Spruill Oaks Branch in Johns Creek is hosting a beginning poetry program for teens. Robert Lynn, Sandy Hokanson and Steven Shields will be leading the Fall Meetings the first Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m. If you want to help with any of the Spring classes, please contact Kay at: Northeast/Spruill Oaks Library, 9560 Spruill Road, Johns Creek, GA 30022, Telephone: 770-360-8820 - ext. 13, or at: [kay.clark@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:kay.clark@fultoncountyga.gov).

**Albany Georgia Poets for Change Day** - Saturday, Sept. 29 is the 100,000 Poets for Change day and the community of Albany, GA is participating! You are invited to come read your work between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. We will be at Our Daily Bread (restaurant) located at 106 N. Washington, in downtown Albany. We will also have music, so if you play an acoustic instrument, bring it as well! Our theme for this year is economic disparity and the use of community activism to heal the problem. You may read your own work or that of someone else. For more information contact Roseanna Almae at (229) 888-0838.

**Future Cycle Press Open Mic** in honor of Poets for Change Day, September 29. The 1000 Thousand Poets for Change initiative is an international fellowship of poets and writers who are concerned about the state of our world and nations. The official website is at [http://www.bigbridge.org/100thousandpoetsforchange/?page\\_id=13931](http://www.bigbridge.org/100thousandpoetsforchange/?page_id=13931). As part of this international event, **FutureCycle Press** (Robert S. King) and **Writers Circle** (Glenda Beall) have scheduled an open-mic reading in Hayesville, NC on Saturday, September 29, 2012, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Weather permitting, the event will be held in the "pocket park" located next to Chinqapins on the city square (see Glenda's photo of the park: <http://www.futurecycle.org/uploads/PocketParkNextToChinqapins.jpg>). Hayesville is located in the scenic mountains and is about a two-hour drive from Atlanta.

**You are invited to come listen and/or read your original works of poetry or prose.** Authors may also bring their books for sale at a table we provide. FutureCycle Press will have its new anthology, *American Society: What Poets See*, for sale at the reading. If you wish to read, poems or prose, do not exceed three minutes each. This is a Bring Your Own Chair event (lightweight lawn chairs.) You are not required to read specifically on the subject of social issues, though you are encouraged to do so.

An RSVP is not required, but helpful. Email Robert, [rsking@futurecycle.org](mailto:rsking@futurecycle.org), if you plan to come and/or read. Also mention if you will bring books to sell.