

Georgia Poetry Society

October 24th Meeting at University of North Georgia in Dahlonega



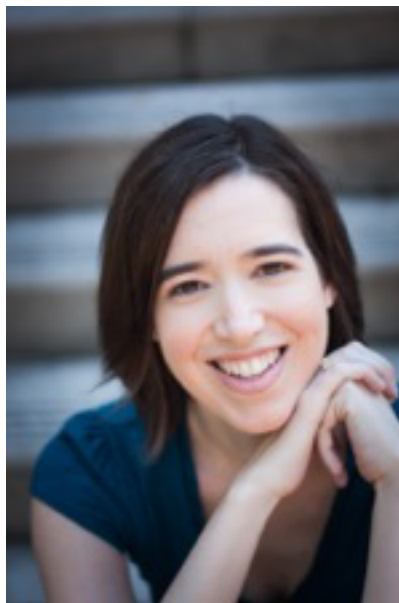
Co-Presenters James May and Chelsea Rathburn:

Poetic Distance and Poetic Intimacy

When it comes to poetry, is there such a thing as TMI? This workshop -- led by a married couple -- explores the intersection between the personal and the universal in poetry (continued page 3)

Louise McKinney: A Poet's "Survival Kit"

We will look at testimony from poets such as Pattiann Rogers, Dorianne Laux, Robert Bly, and Mary Oliver on what is of prime importance to them in the composition process and the role of mentors/muses. Louise will also read from her own work.



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GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

Contact Information

www.georgiapoetrysociety.org

gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org

978-766-5174

2015 Officers:

Ira E. Harrison, President
Michael Diebert, V. President
DuAnne Kaiser, Secretary
Jeff Jones, Treasurer

2015 Board:

Sandy Hokanson
Lynn Farmer
Terry Hensel
Lyn Hopper
Ann Gillespie

Fall 2015 Meeting Schedule

**University of North Georgia, Dahlonega
Newton Oaks Center, room 19**

- 9:00-9:30: Coffee and mingling
- 9:30-9:45: Welcome, announcements, updates
- 9:45-10:15: *The Reach of Song* 2015 unveiling: Milford Greene, editor
- 10:15-10:30: Morning open mic—those appearing in Members section of *RoS* are encouraged to read
- 10:30-10:45: Break
- 10:45-11:45: James May/Chelsea Rathburn presentation
- 11:45-1:00: Lunch in Dining Hall cafeteria (\$8.25 plus tax)
- 1:00-1:15: Liz Garcia: Reading from new chapbook *Stunt Double*
- 1:15-2:15: Louise McKinney presentation
- 2:15-2:30: Afternoon open mic
- 2:30-2:45: Raffle
- 2:45-2:50: Closing remarks
- 2:50: Board meeting

Poetic Distance and Poetic Intimacy (continued)

and looks at ways of tackling intimate subjects without alienating readers. In addition to examining a selection of published poems, we'll complete a writing exercise together.

James May

James Davis May's first book of poetry, *Unquiet Things*, will be published by Louisiana State University Press in early 2016. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Five Points*, *The Missouri Review*, *New England Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *The New Republic*, *Pleiades*, *The Southern Review* and elsewhere. He has received scholarships from The Sewanee Writers' Conference, Inprint, and the Krakow Poetry Seminar. In 2013, he won the Collins Award from *Birmingham Poetry Review*. He is an assistant professor of English and creative writing at Young Harris College and is married to the poet Chelsea Rathburn.

Chelsea Rathburn

Chelsea Rathburn is the author of two poetry collections, *The Shifting Line*, winner of the 2005 Richard Wilbur Award, and *A Raft of Grief*, published by Autumn House Press in 2013. Chelsea's poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, and *Ploughshares*, among other journals and anthologies. In 2009, she received a poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Chelsea lives in Young Harris, Georgia, with her husband, the poet James Davis May, and their daughter. She is an assistant professor of English and creative writing at Young Harris College, where she directs the creative writing program.

Louise McKinney

Louise McKinney is a Canadian expat author, originally from Toronto. Her book of creative nonfiction, *Cities of the Imagination: New Orleans*, documents the cultures of New Orleans. Currently, she's a member of the English faculty at Georgia Perimeter College, where she's also faculty editor of *The Chattahoochee Review*. Her poetry has appeared in literary journals such as *Poetry Canada Review*, *Grain*, *Wind*, *The Hurricane Review* and *Wild Goose Review*, as well as anthologized in *Maple Leaf Rag III* and *Louisiana in Words*. Her first volume of poems, *The Woman Who Drank Her Own Reflection*, was shortlisted for the *Texas Review* Press's annual poetry prize.

Lunch Details

Continental breakfast will be provided by Aramark. Lunch will be in the Dining Hall, up Georgia Circle past the drill field (#121 on the map). Cost for lunch is \$8.25 plus tax.

Directions to University of North Georgia

UNG-Dahlonega's street address is **82 College Circle, Dahlonega, GA 30597**. A link to driving directions: <http://ung.edu/campuses/dahlonega/maps-directions.php>.

From Atlanta, Georgia:

Take GA 400/US 19 N toward Dahlonega.

Travel north on GA 400 until ends at GA 60/US 19 (approx. 56 miles).

Turn left on GA 60/US 19. Travel north toward the city of Dahlonega.

Travel to the first stoplight on to GA 60/US 19 (business).

Proceed through the intersection.

The main entrance to campus is about 200 yards on the left.

Campus Map

A good basic campus map is located here: http://ung.edu/campuses/_uploads/files/dah-Buildings-Parking.pdf.

We will meet in room 19 of the Newton Oaks Center, just off Georgia Circle; on the map, this is 8B (adjoining 8A, Dunlap Hall).

Member News

Diana Anhalt gave a reading from her new chapbook, *Because There is No Return*, at Java Monkey in Decatur as part of the September Decatur Book Festival. The chapbook is available from Passager Books.



<http://www.passagerbooks.com/order-pages/books/because-there-is-no-return/>

Ira E. Harrison has had several honors recently. His book *Poems and Reflections* has been recommended by the US Review of Books. A few excerpts are below. The full review by Mihir Shah can be read here: <http://www.theusreview.com/reviews/Poems-and-Reflections-by-Ira-E-Harrison.html#.VfsuXM6irmE>

“Ira E. Harrison's *Poems and Reflections* shares compelling commentary and insight into the multitude of pivotal, history-defining moments during the poet's lifetime. Both in content and in form, Harrison holds the readers gaze with creative titles, and primarily short, simple poetry whose weight should not be measured in the length of the words, but the words themselves.

...

Interestingly, Harrison played a role during the Civil Rights movement and admittedly found himself in prison as a result. "A Joke" is his direct reaction to the loss of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Harrison's prophetic words still ring true in the face of seemingly nonstop reports of fatal police encounters with young African American youth.

From Obama's rise to the presidency to Vietnam and Hurricane Katrina, the poet discusses the impact of history on today. Harrison's fascination with history, and how it connects to the present and future can be seen in the culminating Founder's Day speech he delivers to a fraternity at his alma mater, Syracuse University. More than anything else, his phrase, "Without a history/ you remain a mystery," will resonate with readers.”

Poems and Reflections can be purchased on Amazon <http://www.amazon.com/Poems-Reflections-Dr-Ira-Harrison/dp/1503209520>

Ira was also a featured presenter in the Parents’ parting Ceremony (Class of 2019) at Morehouse College in August as The Representative of the Alumni Elders (Class of ’55). Ira also has the distinction of being named one of the Ferrymen and Watchmen for the Global Village as a Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee.

Member News (continued)

Jill Jennings, GPS Publicity Chair, has had a productive summer. She won second place (\$50) and publication in the Alabama State Poetry Society Contest for her poem, "That Thing With Feathers," plus a sixth honorable mention for her poem "Kama' ole One Beach Park," in the San Antonio Poets' Association Contest.

Additionally, her poem "Warning Signs" has been published in the most recent issue of *Calamario Magazine*. She also has a poem in the upcoming issue of *The Oberon Poetry Magazine*.

She encourages GPS members to submit their poems as often as they can.

Lynn Pedersen read from her chapbook, *Tiktaalik, Adieu*, in July at the Georgia Center for the Book/Poetry Atlanta Presents in Decatur and also in September at Java Monkey as part of the Decatur Book Festival. Lynn will be reading at the Pine Lake Poetry Festival on October 3. Her chapbook is available from Finishing Line Press here:

https://finishinglinepress.com/product_info.php?products_id=2179&osCsid=aojnr1kv395meososemd64knc4

Karen Paul Holmes is teaching a workshop on "Song Lyrics and Poetry" next May at the John C. Campbell Folk School.

Song Lyrics and Poetry

Date: Friday, May 20 - Sunday, May 22, 2016

Subject: Writing, Music

Instructor: Karen Paul Holmes

Who are your favorite lyricists? Who are your favorite poets? We'll have fun looking at how their words make their songs/poems connect to the listener/reader. What elements give some lyrics such wonderful poetic qualities, and what elements give some poems such wonderful lyrical qualities? Learn to apply these techniques to your own poems or songs. For poets and songwriters of all levels - or anyone who appreciates powerful words.

Tuition: \$334.00

More information here:

https://classes.folkschool.org/class_details.aspx?pk=18605

Member News (continued)

Elizabeth Garcia's chapbook, *Stunt Double*, is coming out from Finishing Line Press in early 2016. Advance sales end Nov. 20. Pre-sales help to determine the print run of the book. More information can be found here: https://finishinglinepress.com/product_info.php?products_id=2503 Elizabeth will be giving a reading from her work at the October GPS meeting!

Reviews:

Elizabeth Garcia's intelligent, heart wrenching poems give testament to a life negotiated through beginnings "down a dark throat of road" and "endings in this half light, of loss...." In a mix of lyric and story, her brave and beautifully crafted poems smack with so much honesty, we stand with her, willing to "brush off the dirt and walk the long way back...." A witness to suffering, Garcia, in the "bone warmth" of her poems, teaches us strength, commitment, and forgiveness because, she tells us, "your shoes aren't right for this." Turning the last page, we know we are better for these poems.

—Ginger Murchison, Editor of Cortland Review

What do Darwin, Wonder Woman, and the Elephant Man have in common? I didn't know either till I picked up *Stunt Double* and discovered anew that "Eventually we all evaporate / into stories." Not only our own but those we take in: a mother's journey to Georgia, Eve's discovery of fallen Able, Echo's fatal fascination with Narcissus. In this word-rich laboratory of what if? Elizabeth Garcia reminds us that stories, regardless of origin, belong to those who hold them under their tongue for a time, then coaxingly float them into the world.

—Lance Larsen, Poet Laureate of Utah

Poetry News

Call for Submissions

The Redrock Writers group of St. George, Utah sponsors the Chaparral Poetry Contest. Poems must be 42 lines or less and measure 4 inches wide or less so that they can be published in a chapbook size publication. Poems cannot have won more than \$10 in any contest. There is a \$3 fee per poem. Please see the website for more information and specific guidelines.

ENTRY CATEGORIES:

CHOLLA Division: any subject, any form, 42 lines or fewer
First prize \$200, Second Prize \$100, Third Prize \$50

CHAQUETA Division: Southwest theme—nature, people, history, etc. any form 42 lines or fewer
First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50, Third Prize \$25

CHAPAREJOS Division: Rhymed and metered poem, any subject, 42 lines or fewer
First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50, Third Prize \$25

CHIMERA Division: Imaginative or absurd/humorous, any form, 42 lines or fewer
First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50, Third Prize \$25

CHAPARRAL POETRY FORUM

Contest Chair: Marie Tollstrup
2280 South Bloomington Drive #6
St. George, UT 84790-6803

Unlimited entries welcome: Postmarked Sept. 1, 2015, through Dec. 1, 2015

http://redrockwriters.org/chaparral_poetry_contest

Eric Hoffer Book Award

SMALL PRESSES * ACADEMIC PRESSES * MICRO PRESSES * SELF-PUBLISHERS --
\$2,000 GRAND PRIZE -- LOW ENTRANCE FEE

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES (entry deadline January 21st, 2016)

More information at www.HofferAward.com

Contest Deadlines

GPS Fall Contest Deadlines are coming up November 16th!

GPS sponsors seven different poetry contests with fall deadlines. For details on poem length, subjects, and forms, see the GPS website <http://georgiapoetrysociety.org/contests/contest-details/>

Lyn Hopper is Contest Chair of the Fall Contests:
lyn71@windstream.net

Charles Dickson Chapbook Contest

Deadline November 16th

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 Cassiopeia*. 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. One winner will be chosen to receive 200 copies of the chapbook.

More information is available on the GPS website <http://georgiapoetrysociety.org.s151994.gridserver.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CHAPBOOK-CONTEST-update-2015.pdf>

Lee Passarella is the Contest Chair for the chapbook competition.
leepassarella@comcast.net

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY ORDER FORM

		QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
ANTHOLOGIES	NEW <i>The Reach of Song 2015</i> Available for pickup in July	_____ x	\$ 15.00 =	_____
	Copy for local library/school	_____ x	\$ 15.00 =	_____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2014</i>	_____ x	\$ 13.00 =	_____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2013</i>	_____ x	\$ 10.00 =	_____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2012</i>	_____ x	\$ 7.00 =	_____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2011</i>	_____ x	\$ 5.00 =	_____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2010</i>	_____ x	\$ 3.00 =	_____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2009</i>	_____ x	\$ 2.00 =	_____
CHAPBOOKS	NEW <i>South of the Ordinary (2014)</i> by Sandy Hokanson	_____ x	\$ 10.00 =	_____
	<i>The Rare, Persistent Light (2012)</i> by Lynn Farmer	_____ x	\$ 5.00 =	_____
	<i>Under a Hundred (2011)</i> Ron Self; Francis Alix; Mildred Greear	_____ x	\$ 5.00 =	_____
	<i>More Than Atoms (2010)</i> by Kandice Cook	_____ x	\$ 3.00 =	_____
	<i>String Theory (2007)</i> by Alice Teeter	_____ x	\$ 2.00 =	_____
	TOTALS	_____	_____	_____
	(Includes Shipping)			
CONTACT INFORMATION				
NAME _____				
ADDRESS _____				
CITY, STATE ZIP _____				
PHONE _____				
EMAIL _____				
LIBRARY DONATION (circle appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Will Deliver Myself (no address needed) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Please Mail to this address:				
NAME OF LIBRARY _____				
ADDRESS _____				
CITY, STATE ZIP _____				
<p>Make checks and money orders to Georgia Poetry Society and mail along with this form to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wanda Reagan 2492 Gum Creek Road Oxford, GA 30054</p>				
For questions about ordering, call Wanda Reagan at 404-295-6198.				
Orders will be filled in August				

Upcoming Poetry Events in Georgia

Poetry at TECH presents An Evening of Poetry featuring Linda Gregerson & Christopher Howell

Thursday, October 22, 2015
Kress Auditorium@The Robert C. Williams Paper Museum
500 Tenth Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30309

7:30 p.m., FREE
Open to the Public
No Tickets or Reservations Required

Parking:

Plenty of free parking available just in front of the building's entrance or through the gate, which is straight ahead as you turn off 10th Street. For more directions and parking info visit:

www.ipst.gatech.edu/amp/

Launch Party for Atlanta Women's Poetry Collective!

Created to provide support, resources, and facilitation of city-wide collaborative art events as well as social events for Atlanta women poets!

We are ready to get things going! We decided what better way than by getting together to share resources and ideas, so please spread the word and try to stop by even for a minute.

What to bring: Ideas and your experience with retreats and workshops. No need to bring documents (though you can) but be ready to share where you have studied and who with OR where you would like to study.

We have some other ideas we'd like to share and want to hear yours. This event will be for female poets only, though not all events will be.

October 18th 2-4 pm. Trish Thomas' house in Atlanta.

Please email Trish for directions.

ppthomas@mindspring.com

Upcoming Meetings

January - Location TBA

Future Newsletters

To include content in upcoming newsletters please contact:

gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org

or send member news to

Lynn Pedersen at:

lynn.pedersen.poetry@gmail.com