

# Georgia Poetry Society

## Fall Quarterly Meeting Sandy Springs Atlanta-Fulton County Library

**Theresa Davis** is an educator, storyteller, poet, author, poetry slam champion and the host of the award-winning open mic Java Speaks. She has performed on stages across the nation as a poet and keynote speaker. In May 2013, her first full collection of poems, *After This We Go Dark*, was published by Sibling Rivalry Press. *After This We Go Dark* became an American Library Association Honoree, and the book can



now be checked out in local and college libraries around the world. Her latest poetry collection, *Drowned: A Mermaid's Manifesto*, released with Sibling Rivalry Press in fall of 2016, was included on the Georgia Center for the Book's list of ten *Books All Georgians Should Read 2017*.

**Amy Pence** authored the poetry collections *Armor*, *Amour* (Ninebark Press), *The Decadent Lovely* (Main Street Rag), and the chapbook *Skin's Dark Night* (2River Press). Her hybrid book on Emily Dickinson, *[It] Incandescent*, was released by Ninebark in 2018 and won the Eyelands Poetry Award in Athens, Greece. A new chapbook, *Your Posthumous Dress: Remnants from the Alexander McQueen Collection*, is just out from dancing girl press. New poems are forthcoming in *Denver Quarterly* and *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*. She tutors high school students in Atlanta and lives in Pine Lake.



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### 2019 Officers

Miriam C. Jacobs, President  
Trish Percival, V. President  
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Lyn Hopper, Treasurer

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Michael Diebert  
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Erica Gerald Mason

**Georgia Poetry Society Fall Quarterly Meeting**  
**Sandy Springs Atlanta-Fulton County Library**  
**395 Mount Vernon Hwy NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328**  
**October 26, 2019**

**NOTE: Morning sessions in Meeting Room A. Afternoon sessions in Meeting Room C.**

- 10:15        Registration and members' "Book Fair" in **Meeting Room A**  
                 Complimentary coffee and cookies will be available
- 10:40        President's welcome
- 10:45        **Theresa Davis: poetry workshop and reading**
- 11:45        Book signing by Theresa Davis
- 12:00        Lunch break (see below) and change of meeting rooms.
- 1:30         **Reading by Amy Pence in Meeting Room C**
- 2:00         **Featured Member reading by Steven Shields**
- 2:20         Break and book signing by featured readers
- 2:40         Open-Mic for members (sign up at registration desk)
- 3:00         Closing business, including unveiling of *The Reach of Song 2019*
- 3:15         Adjournment

**Please support our featured speakers and your fellow members  
by buying and reading their work!**

**LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FALL MEETING**

The usual arrangement of preordering lunch will not apply for this meeting. The newly renovated library has a no-lunch policy in the meeting rooms. Bring your lunch to eat on the library grounds or visit one of many restaurants within a 5-minute drive. Two blocks west of the library is Roswell Road, where there is a wide selection of places to eat, some reachable by foot and others just a few minutes by car. Dozens of choices range from fast food joints and Starbuck's coffee to some highly rated area lunch spots (Café Sunflower, Rumi's Kitchen, La Petite Maison, for example).



**DIRECTIONS to SANDY SPRINGS LIBRARY**  
**395 Mount Vernon Hwy NE**  
**Sandy Springs, GA 30328**

<http://afpls.org/sandy-springs-branch6>

The Library is located about 2 blocks east of Roswell Rd., about 3/4 mile north of I-285. It sits in a fork of Johnson Ferry Road and Mount Vernon Highway.

**From Interstate 285**, exit Roswell Road northbound. Continue 3/4 mile to Mt. Vernon Highway; turn right. Travel down Mt. Vernon through 2 traffic lights; the library will be on your right. Parking lots are on each end of the building.

The morning session is in Meeting Room A. The afternoon session is in Meeting Room C.

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GPS member **Steven Shields** will read October 26 from his second full collection, *Creation Story*. Steven is a former all-night disc jockey and present-day college professor of mass communication at the University of North Georgia. His work has appeared in publications such as *Angle*, *Deronda Review*, *Lyric*, *Measure*, *Main Street Rag*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Raintown Review*, *The Reach of Song*, *Sleet*, and *Umbrella*, among many others. He also has edited a collection of his great-grandmother Edna Rice Crane's verse, *Friends and Neighbors* (2017). Steven is a past president of the Georgia Poetry Society and is active in the running of the Johns Creek Poetry Group (see also competition announcement in this newsletter, p 6).

## Ron Self: On Writing Poetry

I've been trying to write poetry for most of my life. My grandmother saved some of my earliest work, rhyming doggerel printed in crayon when I was eight years old. At fifteen, I bought ten copies of a book called *Treasures of Parnassus Best Poems of 1962*, a scam that would publish anyone willing to buy the books. That same year, my first magazine publication appeared in the *Beta Club Journal*, and by eighteen I was writing and being paid for a "Poem of the Week" column in the *Avondale Sun* newspaper. I've been at it ever since.

I'm still trying to learn how to write poetry. One of the best ways to learn is to read the poetry of others, so I have read and continue to read all kinds of poetry, some good, some bad, some worth my time and some not. The next best way to learn how to write poetry is to just write poetry. As Epictetus put it in ancient Rome, "If you want to be a writer, write." Or, as Ernest Hemingway taught in his first rule for writers: "apply the seat of the pants to the seat of the chair." Put words down on paper and see where they take you. Work at it.

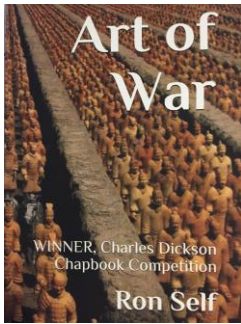
What do I mean by work in the context of writing a poem? Sure, there's no heavy lifting, but there is hard work to be done. It's a combination of many things, but the primary one is just to show up, sit down at the keyboard or at your desk or wherever it is you do your writing and write. If you wait for the muse to whisper in your ear, if you wait for inspiration to strike you, you'll write very little poetry, and it probably won't be memorable poetry. The real poet doesn't sit around waiting for lightning to strike and set fire to an idea for a poem. The real poet gathers fuel for the poem, reads, researches, keeps his or her eyes and ears open, observes the world around him or her, asks questions, makes comparisons, then takes all that fat lighter, that straw, those sticks, twigs, branches, logs, wadded up balls of discarded paper, and lays the fire for a poem.

Then he or she rubs the sticks together, tries out a line or two, makes a word list, an idea list, strikes the flint of one word against the steel of another to make a spark that might ignite the tender core of a poem-to-be. Then by continued effort, writing, imitating, stringing together nonsense or stream of consciousness, the fire catches, begins to grow. And then the poet keeps feeding that fire, tossing in anything he or she has to hand, a pile of old clichés, childhood memories, hopes, dreams, desires, fantasies, pain, suffering, hope, joy, to see if it will blaze up into a poem. And all the time the poet has no real idea what kind of light or heat the fire will generate, where the poem is going, until suddenly it's there: a blazing bonfire or a little campfire or just a candle flickering, burning in the night, but a poem the poet has worked hard to make, worked hard to create.

Logan Bleckley, late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Georgia Supreme Court justice, worked hard to craft his legal opinions. Here's how he described his method: "I reconsider, revise, scrutinize, revise the scrutiny, and scrutinize the revision."

That's pretty much how I write poetry. That first draft is just the beginning. You've still got a lot of work to do.

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**Ron Self's** *Art of War*, winner of the 2017 Charles Dickson Chapbook Competition, is now available from the Georgia Poetry Society. Just complete the order form at <http://georgiapoetrysociety.org/books/>. Copies will also be available for purchase (cash or check) at the October quarterly meeting in Sandy Springs. Price is \$10.

### More Member News ...

**Diana Anhalt.** It took a while, but publication “went forward,” and *Walking Backward*, Diana's fifth chapbook, has now been released by Kelsay Books. It is available on Amazon (price \$14.00) or through Diana. You can contact her directly at [diana.anhalt@gmail.com](mailto:diana.anhalt@gmail.com).

**Kathy Ellis's** poem, “Divine Gratitude,” was selected as the winner of the Poet Laureate Competition at the Spiritual Living Center in Atlanta. The poem will be turned into song by the musical director. The Poetry Society of Michigan awarded Kathy's poem “Vegetable Market” third place in the Category 1 division.

**Lynn Farmer** read from her poetry between musical sets at the Universal Joint in Decatur in March and in June, as the guest of jazz singer Faith Harris. In addition, her poem "100 Faces" received an Honorable Mention for the Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award, given by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies in Santa Fe in June.

Lynn will be a feature in three readings this fall: the Poets Read series in Marietta, Tuesday, October 8; Fourth Friday Jazz at the Spiritual Living Center, 1095 Zonolite Road, Atlanta, Friday, October 25; and a return invitation from Greater Manhattan poets for the Thursdays Are for Poetry series at the Classic Quiche Cafe in Teaneck, NJ, on Thursday, November 21.

**Karen Paul Holmes** will be featured on an upcoming segment of *The Writers' Almanac*. Garrison Keillor will read her poem "Rental Cottage, Maine" from her book *No Such Thing as Distance* in September or October.

Her poem "She Knows the Names of Shells" (first published in the *Valparaiso Review*) was a finalist out of more than 2,000 entries for the *Lascaux Review's* Poetry Prize and will be included in their anthology. Karen also has a poem in the new anthology *A Compendium of Kisses* (Terrapin Books).

**Miriam Jacobs'** poem “Tales from Andersen” was published in July in the daily and weekend editions of *Poets Reading the News*. <http://www.poetsreadingthenews.com/2019/07/tales-from-andersen/>

**Jill Jennings** has had two poems, “Arthritis” and “Night Fright,” accepted for publication by a new journal, *Please See Me*. The poems will also be in audio format.

**Memye Curtis Tucker** launches her new chapbook, *A Net to Hold the Wind*, at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, November 14. She had poems published this year in the U.S. and U.K.; watch for more in *The Cortland*, *Chattahoochee*, *Crab Orchard* and *Southern Poetry Reviews*.

Second Annual Ron Boggs Memorial Poetry Contest  
Johns Creek Poetry Group

Entry Deadline is November 2, 2019

*Johns Creek Poetry Group is excited to announce its annual poetry contest!*

Ron Boggs led the Johns Creek Poetry Group and served on the Georgia Poetry Society Board for several years. Ron passed away after a brief illness in 2017. To honor him, the Johns Creek Poetry Group annually sponsors this memorial poetry contest.

One winner is chosen with a prize of \$50. One honorable mention is chosen. Both winner and HM receive certificates. Winners to be published in the Group's newsletter. The winner and HM will be announced at the Group's meeting on December 7, 2019.

The entry fee is five dollars, payable to "Johnscreekpoetry" via PayPal, or in cash or check at the meeting of the Group on October 5, 2019 at the Alpharetta Library.

Deadline for the entry and fee is Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 12:00 Noon.

Please adhere to these guidelines. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

**Guidelines:**

1. Entrants must be 18 years or older and a resident of Georgia. Entrants do not need to be a member of JCPG, though we encourage you to join us.
2. Poems may be on any topic and use any form but should be no longer than 40 lines, not including blank lines.
3. Poems must be in English. They must be typed or word-processed. They must have a title.
4. Poems must avoid obscenities, profanities, or subject matter that is racist or homophobic.
5. Please use single spacing. Please use a readable font.
6. The entry must be original, unpublished in any form, and cannot have not won any other contest.
7. No more than one poem may be submitted per entrant.
8. Email your poem to: [johnscreekpoetry@gmail.com](mailto:johnscreekpoetry@gmail.com). Please write in the subject box: Poem Entry - Your last name. Example, **Poem Entry - Smith**. Include your contact information and the title of your poem in the email but not on the poem. Include the poem as an attachment with no name or contact information on the poem.
9. Judge(s) are not associated with the Johns Creek Poetry Group.

For any questions, contact [johnscreekpoetry@gmail.com](mailto:johnscreekpoetry@gmail.com).

## Poetry Events Around Georgia

**Poetry@Tech's McEver Poetry Reading and *Terminus Release Event*, Thursday, October 3, 7:30pm:** featuring Robert Pinsky, Ada Limón and H. Bruce McEver. Kress Auditorium in the Renewable Bioproducts Institute at Georgia Tech.

**The Catacomb and Chrysalis of Poetry, Westobou Festival, Saturday, October 5, 12pm-2:30pm.** Host James Aaron Snow. Featured poets Leah TheActivistArtist, Calvin W. Pennywell Jr, Anna Harris-Parker. Westobou Gallery, 1129 Broad Street, Augusta, GA 30901.

**Poetry Reading at Callanwolde. Thursday, October 10, 7:30pm:** Featuring Dan Veach and Peter Junker. **Thursday, November 14, 7:30pm: Featuring Anthony Harrington and Memye Curtis Tucker\*\*.** Held in the Library of the Historic Candler Mansion of the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, 980 Briarcliff Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. Free admission.

**\*\* A Special Invitation, November 14, 7:30pm:** Charter GPS member **Memye Curtis Tucker**, author of *The Watchers*, (Ohio U. Press, Hollis Summers Poetry Prize; GA Center for the Book's "Books All Georgians Should Read" Citation), will launch her newest chapbook, *A Net to Hold the Wind*, at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center. GPS members are warmly invited! For a preview, see: <http://mainstreetragbookstore.com/product/a-net-to-hold-the-wind-memye-curtis-tucker/>.

**Java Speaks Open Mic, Sunday, October 6, 7:30pm-10:30pm. Java Speaks features Chibbi, Sunday, October 20, 7:30pm.** Ammazza, 314 E. Howard Ave, Decatur, GA 30030.

**Poets Read, Tuesday, October 8: 6:30pm-8:30pm:** Bonnie Barclay, Michael Diebert, Lynn Farmer. Sewell Mill Library, 2051 Lower Roswell Rd, Marietta, GA 30068. Open Mic from 6:30-7pm (sign up at door).

**Writers' Night Out** at the Union County Community Center in Blairsville, Georgia, continues through November and is sponsored by the North Carolina Writers' Network-West. Readers start at 7pm, followed by an open mic (sign up at the door). **October 11:** Linda Jones & Allen Cone; **November 8:** Rosemary Royston & Diana Anhalt.

**Xchange Open Mic** hosted by Theresa Davis and Ken J Martin. **October 11, November 8, December 13, 8pm-10:30pm. List opens at 7:30pm.** Arts Xchange, 2148 Newnan Street, East Point, GA 30344.

**GA Poetry Circuit. November 8, 7:30pm. Ryan Wilson** at Arnold Hall Auditorium, CSU main campus, Columbus, GA. **Part of the fall circuit week, November 3-9, 2019.** Ryan Wilson will also read at Brenau U. and Berry College. **David Baker** will read at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Thomas U., Valdosta State U., Georgia Southern U., Savannah State U. Information at <https://www.berry.edu/gpc/gpi>. Click on GPC Schedule.

**THE REACH OF SONG 2019  
AVAILABLE SOON**

It's time to get your pre-orders in!  
Please use the order form on the "Reach of Song" page of our website.  
<http://georgiapoetrysociety.org/books/>

Sincere thanks go to John Ottley and to Steven Shields for their dogged persistence in trying to retrieve unpublished winning 2015 fall contest poems and 2016 youth contest winners so that as many as possible could be included in this year's anthology.

Thanks also to editor Miriam Jacobs and co-editor Beaux Neal for their additional work on the ROS 2019 project, and to Duanne Kaiser for all her invaluable help and advice.



**GPS on Twitter**

GPS takes pride in announcing that the organization now has a Twitter account, @GPoetsociety (or just search for us as Georgia Poetry Society). Feel free to follow us there for word of GPS events and contests, poetry news, and soon links to poems by members. Anything else you'd like to see in our Twitter feed? Look for us online via <https://twitter.com> and let us know, please!

**GPS CONTESTS TO CHANGE!**

The Board of the Georgia Poetry Society is finalizing plans to revise the contests it conducts each year with an aim to increase the monetary prizes and, we hope, increase participation from both members and non-members. We will accept comments from members before posting the new contest guidelines on the GPS website.

The proposed changes will be previewed at the Fall Quarterly Meeting on October 26. In the meantime, please do not send in any contest entries as guidelines/entry fees will be changing.

Board Member Andrea Jurjevic has agreed to act as the Chair of the 2019 Contest Committee. Committee volunteers are needed! If you are a current Member and are interested in helping, please contact **Andrea** at: [andreaJurjevic9@gmail.com](mailto:andreaJurjevic9@gmail.com).

Do you have any Member News, Georgia Poetry Event News, or anything else interesting to share with fellow GPS members?

Please email Ann Willis, Newsletter Editor, at [ann.c.willis@outlook.com](mailto:ann.c.willis@outlook.com).

Submission deadline for the winter issue is December 9, 2019.

**WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING**

Mark your calendars!

Featured Presenter: Jericho Brown

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Decatur Dekalb County Library.