



GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY: SERVING GEORGIA'S POETS SINCE 1979
Volume 30, Number 3: Fall 2008

AN AUTUMN POTPOURRI OF POETS AT GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY'S 119TH QUARTERLY MEETING

Our fall quarterly meeting will be an autumn potpourri of fine readers, moving poetry, and helpful instruction—not to mention the added bonus of good fellowship. It will all take place at Turner Center for Continuing Education, Columbus State University on Saturday, October 18th, so make your plans now. (See lodging options below.)

We have as our featured readers Dr. Elizabeth Wurz, a faculty member of CSU, and Michael Bishop, a Georgia native novelist and poet.

Dr. Elizabeth Wurz is an Assistant Professor of Basic Writing at Columbus State University. She is a graduate of the Creative Writing Programs at New York University (M.F.A., 1998) and Georgia State University (Ph.D., 2007). Her poems have appeared in *Rattle*, *The Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide*, *Crazyhorse*, *The Southeast Review* and the *GSU Review*. She lives in Columbus, Georgia with her partner and their two children.



Michael Bishop's fiction, poetry, and essays have appeared in almost all the major fantasy and science fiction periodicals: *Analog*, *Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Omni*,



Asimov's Science Fiction, *Interzone*, and many others. Bishop has also published fiction in such popular markets as *Playboy*, *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, and in literary quarterlies (*The*

Missouri Review, *The Georgia Review*, and *The Chattahoochee Review*). He has published poetry in *The Georgia Review*, *Moana: The Pacific Quarterly*, *Twilight Zone Magazine* and many other journals and anthologies. Bishop, after a brief teaching career, began freelance writing in the early 1970s from his home in Pine Mountain. In 1996, he became writer-in-residence at LaGrange College, a position he has held ever since. He teaches creative-writing courses and an occasional January interim-term course.

In addition to our featured readers, after lunch our own Ron Self will reprise his presentation of the poetry of Billy Collins, and member Jill Jennings, who led an instructive workshop at our July meeting, will read from her new book *The Poetry Alarm Clock*.

You'll be as pleased as I am to know that Mildred Greear, long time member and accomplished poet, has agreed to share some inspiration and helpful prompts as she leads the afternoon workshop. (*Please see her bio on Page 3.*)

For those of you who can be in the Columbus area the night before our meeting (Oct. 17th), a special reading of three of our members: Ron Self, outgoing president; Clela Reed, outgoing vice president; and Keith Badowski, president elect will take place at the Columbus Public Library, 3000 Macon Road at 7 p.m. If you need directions, contact Ron at smrws@aol.com or 706-221-4370. Also, Ron has invited members who plan to attend the reading to a casual supper at his house (513 Broadway) at 5:30 p.m. If you want to accept Ron's hospitality (he's a great cook!), please indicate you're coming on the lunch reservation form or email him if you're not reserving a lunch.

Following, find the agenda, information on lodging in the Columbus State area, directions to the meeting site, lunch order info and form, and a map of the campus.

Hope to see you next month. You won't want to miss this program!

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Clela Reed, Vice President

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AGENDA

119TH QUARTERLY GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY MEETING

9:30 a.m.	Coffee and Registration, Member Readings Sign-up
10:00 a.m.	Welcome and Brief Business Meeting to Announce and Introduce Newly Elected Officers and Board
10:10 a.m.	Member Readings
10:50 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Wurz, Featured Poet
11:30 a.m.	Michael Bishop, Featured Poet
12:00 p.m.	Q&A and book signing
12:15 p.m.	Lunch (announcement of Bear in the Highway Contest Results)
1:15 p.m.	Ron Self, " <u><i>Dropping a Mouse into a Poem: The Poetry of Billy Collins</i></u> "
1:45 p.m.	Jill Jennings reading from her book <u><i>The Poetry Alarm Clock</i></u>
2:10 p.m.	Workshop: " <u>From the Inside of the Apple and the other Side of the Orange</u> " – Mildred Greear
3:00 p.m.	Announcements and Adjournment
3:10 p.m.	Board Meeting

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, RON SELF

By the time you read this you will have had a chance to cast your vote for a new slate of Georgia Poetry Society officers, including a new president. If the by-laws had allowed it, I think I would have run again myself, and I did give serious thought to staging a coup, barricading the doors of the non-existent offices of the society, declaring a dictatorship, and hanging on to the office of president for life. It's been that much fun. Lucky for you I had better sense.

Thanks to all of you, I've had a great time as your president, gotten a chance to know some truly wonderful poets and friends, and shared good times at meetings and RoadShows all over the state of Georgia and beyond. And many of you have welcomed me into your homes and hearts. But, it is time to move on, time for new leadership, and new enthusiasm.

Some of you know that when I became president of the society my history with the organization was slight at best, two years as a member and attendance at one and half quarterly meetings. But thanks to the good head start left to me by past-president Steven Shields, and an outstanding board and slate of officers, it's worked out reasonably well. We've managed to increase the paying membership by more than 50 percent in the last two years, have seen a marked increase in the number of members attending our quarterly meetings, and have had truly wonderful programs thanks to Program Chair and Vice-President Clela Reed. The hard work and nose-to-the-grindstone attitude of our Treasurer, Terry Hensel, has put us in good financial shape with some new sources of revenue including profit from the *Reach of Song*, thanks to Editor, Bob Lynn and his assistant, new Editor, Tonette Long. Deuce Douglass has run two

effective seasons of contests, and new contest chair, Robert Simon, is off to a good start for this year. Linda Ames has produced quality newsletter after quality newsletter over the last two and half years and has provided a valuable message service for the membership. Freddie Riley has made the GPS website a wonder to behold. Jean Mahavier has continued and expanded her great work with the Poetry in the Schools program and, with the help of Hilde Holmes, has added a busy Columbus school program. We've successfully moved from a fiscal to a calendar year basis, adopted new by-laws and gotten the membership roster in good shape.

John Ottley, Jr., Emery Campbell, Larry Hand, Rosemary Mauldin, Jeanne Osborne Shaw, Herbert Denmark, Ira Harrison and many, many others have served as valued advisors and faithful laborers in the vineyard of chapbook, contest rules, nominating committee, *Reach of Song*, National Federation of State Poetry Society matters, and all those areas are ready for continued growth and good times.

But most important of all, there seems to be renewed can-do spirit and enthusiasm throughout the membership. It truly is a delight to see folks being greeted and made welcome at the quarterly meetings, having a good time and increasing our knowledge of poetry, to read complimentary notes and e-mails from members, and to have folks offering their services to the programs of our society. We have every reason to expect all these wonders to continue under the new administration. Thank you all for what you have done to assure the success of our joint mission. Keep up the good work.

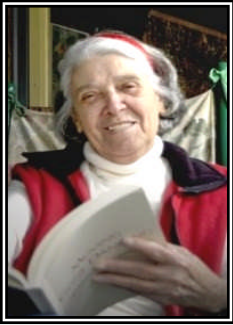
Ron Self

SPECIAL CHALLENGE CONTEST FOR OCTOBER: THE BEAR IN THE HIGHWAY CONTEST

Attention Poets! Don't Forget the Special Challenge Contest for the October Quarterly Meeting. At the July meeting our president reported on a news item about a bear getting on 1-75 in the Atlanta suburbs. He challenged us to write a poem about a bear on the highway, possibly from the point of view of the bear or the motorist – or any other point of view – so long as the poem mentions a bear on the highway.

Poems will be read and a prize for best poem awarded at the October meeting.

MEET GPS POETS



Mildred Greear's career goals were always to be a teacher and writer – goals that she achieved after she graduated from the University of Mississippi. While teaching in Gulfport MS, she met and married her husband Philip Greear. Following World War II, she and her family moved to the mountains in northeast Georgia, where she continued to teach, and additionally became a newspaper columnist.

Greear did not share her poetry with many until she retired from her career with the public schools of Floyd County, Georgia. Her first chapbook submission, *A Species of Ruin*, took first place in the Georgia State Poetry Society contest, and after that, she was published in a variety of regional and international journals. Her second chapbook, *At the Edge*, was awarded the Charles B. Dickinson honor by the Georgia Poetry Society. She is the only author to twice receive that award. Her recent book *Moving, Gone Dancing* was nominated for Georgia Book of the Year. Mildred has a deep attachment for the remaining Appalachian culture of her adopted home in White County, Georgia. Along with her family, she is an environmental activist.

ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The first Georgia Poetry Society election under the newly-adopted by-laws is complete. Fifty-five GPS members cast their ballots unanimously affirming the recommendations of the nominating committee for officers and directors to serve for the calendar year 2009.

Keith Badowski will assume the office of President January 1, 2009 and will be officially sworn in at the January 17th quarterly meeting. Other officers include Robert Simon, Vice-President, Jill Jennings, Secretary, and Terry Hensel, re-elected to serve as Treasurer.

Board members, newly elected and returning, are Berthena Lankford, JC Reilly, Tonette Long, Ron Self, and Steven Shields. Linda Ames, newsletter Editor, and Freddie O'Connor Riley, webmaster, will continue to serve as ex-officio members of the Board. The Board traditionally meets immediately following each quarterly meeting of the society, and the meetings are open to all interested members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE YOU A CHARTER MEMBER OF GPS? GPS wants to recognize its charters members at the January 2009 Awards Luncheon. When the Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc. (actual name of the Georgia Poetry Society) was formed in 1979, it was agreed to that persons joining during the first year of existence would be "Charter Members." Please help us identify those remaining members who are charter members, who joined the organization during the August 30, 1979- August 30, 1980 time period.

If you are a charter member or know someone who is a charter member and might not come forward on his or her own, please notify GPS so that proper recognition can be made. Please send your notice to Ron Self at smrws@aol.com, 706-649-3080 or to GPS, P. O. Box 2184 Columbus, GA 31902. Thank you for your help.

NFSPS STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION. Now is your chance! Enter now! The National Federation of State Poetry Societies presents an opportunity for publication of your (single author) poetry manuscript. First prize is \$1000 plus publication of the winning manuscript of 48-70 pages. Your submission may include individual previously published poems (acknowledgments on separate sheet); and, simultaneous and multiple submissions are permitted.

The submission period is August 1 – October 15, 2008 (postmark deadline) and the entry fee is \$20. Full details are located at <http://www.nfspd.com/stevens1.htm>.

NEW US POET LAUREATE. Kay Ryan was named the 16th U.S. Poet Laureate on July 17, 2008. For a biographical sketch about her, see *Kay Ryan, Outsider With Sly Style, Named Poet Laureate* at the following website.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/books/17poet.html?_r=1&oref=slogin. To read some of her poetry, see:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/books/17poet-extra.html?ref=books>.

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

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.

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.

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/>.

SNAIL MAIL/EMAIL ADDRESSES

To facilitate getting announcements to you, we of course use email as much as possible. However, emails to the following people have bounced back as undeliverable for one reason or another. To ensure that we have your correct email addresses, would the following members please send an email to Linda Ames (linaka31904grace@knology.net):

Marcia Roessler (E)	Pamela Keith-Pack (E)
Lou Jones (E)	Ann Verner (E)
Edith Mosley(S)	Byron Webb (E)

Do you have a writers' or poets' group that you would like to advertise here?

Please contact Linda Ames, GPS Newsletter Editor at (706) 323-4014 or E-mail: linaka31904grace@knology.net.

MEMBER NEWS

The Georgia Poetry Society members express their sympathy to the families of Dr. Jerry Zeller and Jane L. Hart.

Congratulations to Alice Teeter and Dr. Robert Simon!

- Alice was recently informed that Star Cloud Press (Arizona) will publish a longer collection of her poems, titled "When It Happens To You" in January 2009. Alice says, "I'm thrilled, to say the least." At the same time she received this news, she was also told by an online publisher (www.percontra.net) that they will print her poem, "The 103rd Birthday of Emma Regina DeGraffenreid Smith" (a double sestina) in their December issue.
- Dr. Simon has recently published an academic book titled Understanding the Portuguese Poet Joaquim Pessoa, 1942-2007: A Study in Iberian Cultural Hybridity, with The Edwin Mellen Press. It is available for purchase on their website, www.mellenpress.com.

GPS Charter Member Pat Morton Posey has lived in Kingsport, TN for 17 years, following 38 years in Dekalb County as a teacher and active GPS member. In retirement has won four medals in Senior Olympics and still writes some poetry. Her poem, "The Mechanic", was selected for the 2008 Reach of Song. She sends special greetings to close GPS members Emily Vail, Jean Mahavier, Jeanne Osborne Shaw and John K. Ottley, Sr. If you wish to contact her, her phone is 423-956-8425.

GPS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| * Janet Lombard (Athens) | * William A. "Doc" Purdom (Conyers) | * Teena Swift (Columbus) |
| * Betty Wallace (Hampton) | * Rosemary Dixon (Clayton) | * Susanna Swift (Columbus) |

GPS MEMBERS CAPTURE POETRY SOCIETY OF GEORGIA CONTESTS

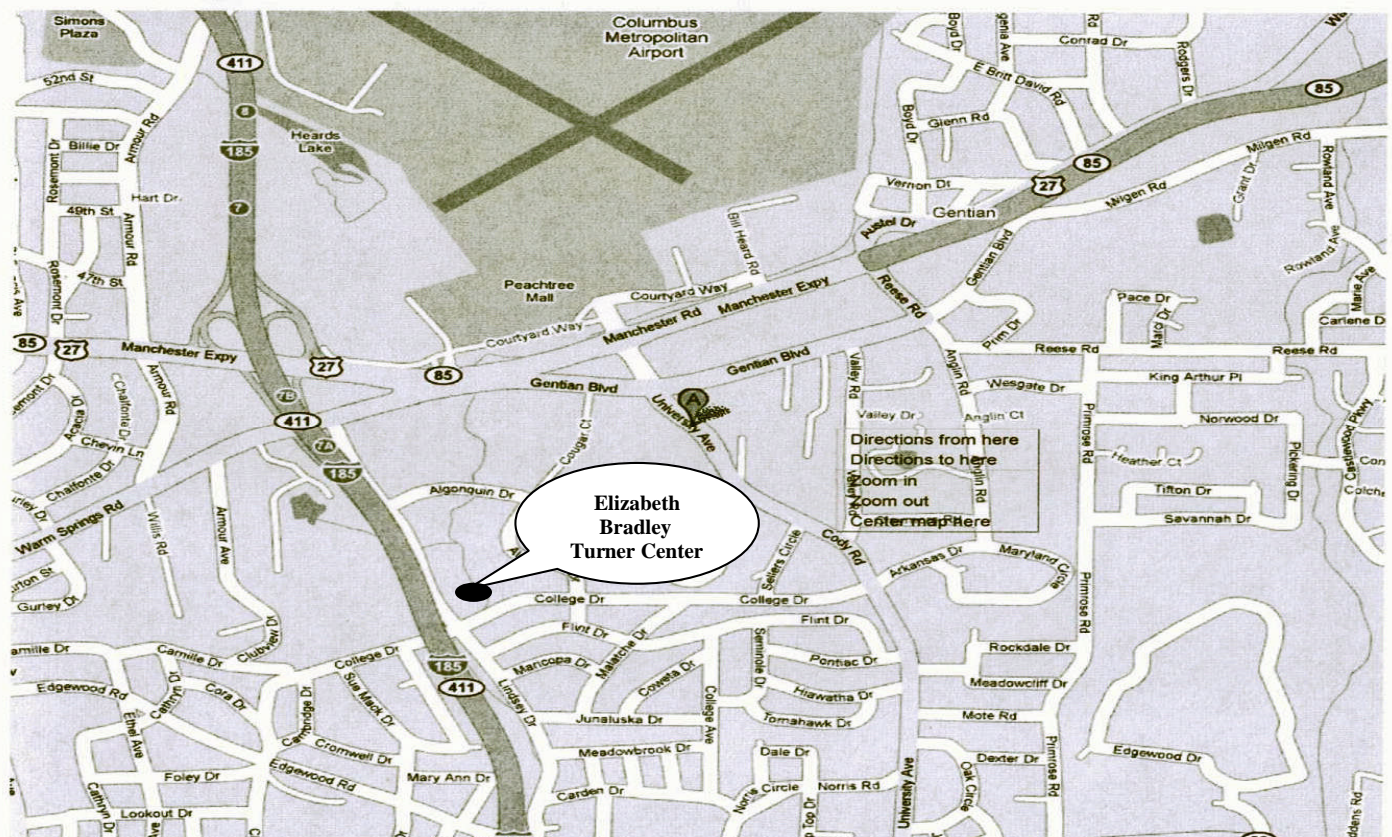
Congratulations to the GPS winners in contests sponsored by the Poetry Society of Georgia. GPS members took First Place in four of the nine contests.

- * Lucy B. McIntire Memorial Prize
 - ▶ First Place Dr. Robert L. Lynn for his poem "Reverence"
 - ▶ Honorable Mention: Dr. Hugh Pendexter, III for his poem "Power Outage."
- * The Monday Prize
 - ▶ Honorable Mention - Dr. Robert L. Lynn for his poem "Chasing Leaves"
- * The Grace Schley Knight Memorial Prize
 - ▶ First Place - Dr. Hugh Pendexter, III for his poem "Restoration"
 - ▶ Honorable Mention- Dr. Robert L. Lynn for his poem "Strawberry Pots."
- * The Society Prize
 - ▶ First Place - Dr. Robert L. Lynn for his poem "Relentless Sea"
 - ▶ Honorable Mention - Dr. Hugh Pendexter, III for his poem "Nibbler"
- * The Formal Prize
 - ▶ First Place - Jeanne Osborne Shaw for her poem "I Can Not Be Dismissed By My Death"
 - ▶ Honorable Mention - Dr. Robert L. Lynn for his poem "Became a Man"

DIRECTIONS TO THE ELIZABETH BRADLEY TURNER CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Directions to the Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center for Continuing Education (See Map below):

- Take I-185 north or south (south from I-85) to exit 7.
- Take exit 7 and turn east on to Manchester Expressway. (Peachtree Mall will be on your left.)
- At the second traffic light, turn right onto University Avenue (Burger King will be on your right).
- Continue on University Avenue to the 3rd traffic light and turn right onto College Drive.
- Continue on College Drive to the 2nd stop sign and turn right onto East Lindsay Drive.
- The Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center is immediately on the right.



LUNCHEON ORDER FORM

If you would like to order a box lunch from the caterers at CSU, please make your choice and send in your order to our treasurer:

T. Hensel
PO Box 999
Alpharetta, GA 30009

Send by **October 10th** postmark
Make checks of **\$11.00** per box to **Georgia Poetry Society**

All **sandwiches** come on a Kaiser roll with cheese, lettuce, tomato and pickle spear. Included are potato chips, a fresh-baked cookie, and your choice of sodas and bottled water. All **salad** lunches include a fruit cup, fresh-baked cookie, and your choice of sodas and bottled water. (Order form on next page.)

Clip and send

Name: _____

Choice of Box Lunches (\$11.00 each):

Sandwiches: Smoked Turkey _____ Lean Roast Beef _____
or
Salads: Grilled Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Total: _____

I will ___ will not ___ be a supper guest at Ron Self's home on Friday, Oct. 17th.

LODGING OPTIONS:

Extended Stay America - Bradley Park
1721 Rollins Way
Columbus, GA 31904
Telephone: (706) 653-9938
Fax: (706) 653-1899
cbp@extendedstay.com

Valley Fairfield Inn
East Armour Road
Columbus, Georgia 31904
Phone: 1-706-317-3600
Fax: 1-706-317-2400
<http://www.marriott.com>

Best Western
3443 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907
(706) 568-3300
www.bestwesterngeorgia.com

La Quinta Inn
3201 Macon Rd # 200
Columbus, GA 31906
(706) 568-1740
<http://www.lq.com/lq/index.jsp>

Extended Stay America – Airport
5020 Armour Rd.
Columbus, GA 31904
Telephone: (706) 653-0131
Fax: (706) 653-0133
<http://www.extendedstayhotels.com>

Sleep Inn
5100 Armour Road
Columbus, GA 31904
Phone: (706) 653-1330
Fax: (706) 653-1695
<http://www.sleepinn.com>

Holiday Inn Columbus, North I-185
2800 Manchester Expressway
Columbus, GA 31904
Front Desk: 1-706-3240231
Fax: 1-706-5960248
<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com>

Comfort Suites
5236 Armour Rd.
Columbus, GA 31904
Phone: (706) 322-6666
Fax: (706) 322-2553
<http://www.sleepinn.com>

2008 POETRY CONTESTS

The GPS 2008 Contest season is almost over. If you have not yet entered there may still be time to beat the October 15th submission deadline. In addition, the Georgia Poetry Society conducts contests in the fall of each year, with an October 15 postmark deadline for all entries. In addition to earning cash prizes, the top three poems in each contest may be published in *The Reach of Song*, the annual GPS poetry anthology. Below are descriptions of the contests, along with contest-specific requirements such as form and number of lines, followed by a set of general rules, such as the format required for all entries. (Note: *Changes reflected as **bolded and underlined**.*)

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Awards for adults are announced at an awards luncheon, where honored poets are given the opportunity to read their winning entries. The luncheon is currently part of the winter quarterly meeting held in January. (Youth awards, which have a January 31 postmark deadline each year, are announced at the quarterly GPS meeting in April.)

CONTESTS FOR 2008

THE LANGSTON HUGHES AWARD

Maximum 40 lines; any subject, any form. Must be written in the spirit of Hughes' poetry. Celebrates the life and poetic achievements of Langston Hughes. His early work, "The Weary Blues" earned him acclaim as an important contributor to the Harlem Renaissance arts movement of the 1920s. Hughes was affiliated with the Atlanta University Center

FOUNDERS AWARD

- Maximum 80 lines; any subject, any form.
- Honors GPS founding President Edwin D. Vickers, and co-founder Charles J. Bruehler.

EDUCATORS' AWARD

- Maximum 40 lines; any subject, any form.
- To enter you must be a past or present **teacher or educator in any field of academic study**.

BYRON HERBERT REECE INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Maximum 40 lines; any subject, any form. Honors Georgia's beloved and internationally renowned poet, Byron Herbert Reece (1917-1958), whose "finely-crafted ballads and lyrics celebrate the life and heritage of the north Georgia mountains" (courtesy, New Georgia Encyclopedia). Reece won two Guggenheims, and was nominated for a Pulitzer prize during his relatively brief career

THE EDGAR BOWERS AWARD

- Maximum 40 lines; any subject.
 - Form: a traditional poem that must be written in the spirit of Bowers' verse. (The poem must use rhyme and/or meter in a generally recognized and accepted poetic form, such as a sonnet, sestina, villanelle, etc.) Form must be identified on poem.
- Honors Georgia poet Edgar Bowers (1924-2000), whose compact and rigorous formalism defined the spirit of his work. His poems expressed themes of loss—of the past, of friends, of family, of humanity.

MNEMOSYNE AWARD

- Maximum 40 lines; any subject, any form.
- Honors in memoriam Georgia Poetry Society members who were of notable service to the Society, including Thelma Ruth Hall, Katherine Ward, R. Rihard Greene, and Annette Rumph Peery. Mnemosyne (nigh-MOHS-eh-nee) was an ancient Greek goddess, the Muse of Memory.

GENERAL RULES

Please observe these rules of competition to avoid the disappointment of disqualification.

RIGHTS By submitting entries to any GPS poetry contest, entrants affirm that the poetry is their own original, unpublished work to which they own all rights. Entrants attest that the work submitted is not simultaneously entered in any other contest or submitted elsewhere for publication. Entrants attest that the poem submitted has not won a monetary award of more than \$10 in any previous competition. The Georgia Poetry Society reserves the right to publish prize-winning poems in its annual anthology, *The Reach of Song*. Until published, rights rest with the Society. After publication, or a decision not to publish, rights revert to the author.

ELIGIBILITY: A contestant can enter only three poems per contest, and the same poem cannot be entered in any other contest. A contestant can win only one cash award in any contest.

DEADLINE: Each year, entries are accepted beginning September 1 and ending with postmarks of October 15. (If October 15 occurs on a weekend or holiday, entries postmarked the first business day after October 15 are accepted.) Following the awards luncheon announcements, results are also listed in the GPS newsletter and on the GPS website: www.georgiapoetrysociety.org.

SUBJECT MATTER. Poems submitted must be consistent with the publication aims of the Society's annual anthology, *The Reach of Song*.

Because this anthology is forwarded to school and public libraries where children are readers, and because winning poems may be published in it, poems submitted must avoid language or themes inappropriate for a child readership. Accordingly, poems will be disqualified if they are deemed by the contest coordinator(s) or judge(s) to violate this standard. In general, poems will be disqualified if found to contain indecencies, obscenities, defamations, or hateful expressions.

HONORABLE MENTIONS, CITATIONS. Although the rules state that only three cash prizes are awarded, sometimes judges feel that certain poems merit an "honorable mention" or even a "citation." While these honors may be announced, no cash prizes are awarded, and these poems are not published in *The Reach of Song*.

HOW TO ENTER YOUR POEMS

A. PREPARE THE POEMS: Type each entry in English on only one side of 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper, one poem per page, single-spaced (if a poem runs longer than one page, staple together all pages of each copy). Prepare two copies with the name of the contest in the upper right-hand corner of both copies. Place the name and address of the poet under the name of the contest on only one copy of the poem.

B. PREPARE PAYMENT: Write a check or money order payable to: Georgia Poetry Society. (Do not make checks or money order payable to individual contest chairs.) All competition fees must be paid in U.S. funds. Poems accompanied by cash will be disqualified and returned to the submitter. **IMPORTANT:** Check to be sure your payment is correct. The total must include \$2.00 for each poem entered if you are a GPS member, and \$3.00 per poem if you are not a member of the GPS. You do not need to write separate checks or money orders if you are entering poems in multiple contests.

C. MAIL YOUR ENTRIES: In a suitable envelope, include both copies of all your entries, along with your check or money order. If you want to receive a list of award winners, be sure to include a SASE. Mailing all your entries for all contests in a single envelope is encouraged. Mail your entries anytime after September 1 but no later than October 15, unless October 15 occurs on a weekend or holiday, in which case you can mail your entries the first business day after October 15. Address the envelope to:

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY
ATTN: Contests Chair
PO Box 2184
Columbus GA 31902

(Note: the Georgia Poetry Society mailing address usually follows the President. When a new President of the society is elected the mailing address may change. It is recommended that entrants check the website to verify the current mailing address as of the time of submission.)

NO EMAIL ENTRIES: Submissions by email will be ignored.

CANCELLATIONS: Any contest receiving fewer than ten entries may be canceled. If so, entry fees will be refunded.

JUDGING: Each contest chairperson will secure qualified judges who are not GPS members (with the exception of the youth contests). Entries are judged anonymously. Decisions of the judges are final. A list of winners will contain the name(s) of the judge(s).

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS: Winners not present at the awards luncheon in January will be notified and will receive their awards by mail. A list of winners will be sent to all entrants who include a SASE with their submissions.

PUBLICATION: The GPS reserves first publication rights to all prize-winning poems for possible inclusion in the anthology, *Reach of Song*. Failure to allow GPS to publish a winning poem will result in disqualification, loss of placement and loss of prize money.

NON-WINNING POEMS: Will be destroyed. No poems are returned.

PRIZES FOR YOUTH POETRY

The Margery Carlson Prize is awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students in grades 1-5. The Marel Brown Prize is a two-tier contest with prizes awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

ELIGIBILITY: Any student in grades 1-12 enrolled in a Georgia public or private school or home-schooled at a permanent Georgia address.

FEES: There are no entry fees for this contest.

LENGTH OF POEM: maximum of 32 lines.

- Only one entry per student.
- Maximum of four poems per school.

SUBJECT: Any subject in good taste, any poetic form. Poem must be student's original and unpublished work. Teachers should ensure that works are not plagiarized.

RESTRICTIONS: Poems must be accompanied by entry form (a printable copy of the form is available on the GPS website at <http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org>).

HOW TO ENTER POEMS FOR Youth Poetry:

To guide submissions, please adhere to these format considerations:

- Type or word-process on standard 8.5x11 white paper. Grades 1-5 may submit hand-written entries. Please ensure legibility.
- Do not include illustrations.
- Select a standard font such as Times-Roman rather than some unconventional font (such as script fonts or Gothic). Use fonts no larger than 14-point.
- One poem per page. Poems must be in English.
- Submit two copies of the poem, one without author identification. The copy with identification should be taped, pasted or stapled to the entry form. Keep a copy of the poem submitted as they cannot be returned.
- Send all manuscripts from the same school in one envelope with school name and grade level on the envelope exterior. No entries accepted from individual students unless home-schooled. Winners will be posted on the Society website at the completion of competition.
- Entry form must accompany each poem and must be complete. Form must be signed both by the student submitter and the sponsoring teacher.

- No emailed or disk entries accepted. Entries should be mailed to: Georgia Poetry Society, P.O. Box 2184, Columbus, Georgia 31902 (Note: the Georgia Poetry Society mailing address usually follows the President. When a new President of the society is elected the mailing address may change. It is recommended that entrants check the website to verify the current mailing address as of the time of submission.)

DEADLINE: All entries must be postmarked no later than January 31 **or** **next business day if January 31 falls on a holiday or weekend.**

JUDGES: The Georgia Poetry Society will select qualified judges who receive the copies without author identification for judging.

Winners are announced at the April meeting of the Society. Winners are invited, but are not required, to appear with parents and/or teachers to receive their awards. The Georgia Poetry Society reserves the right to publish prize-winning poems in its annual anthology, *The Reach of Song*. Until published, rights rest with the Society. After publication, or a decision not to publish, rights revert to the author

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2184

Columbus, GA 31902

(706) 221-4370

Email: georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com

URL: <http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/>

CONTACTS:

Ron Self, President
PO Box 751
Columbus, Georgia 31902
SMRWS@aol.com

Dr. Robert Simon, Contest Chair
rob1701b@aol.com

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To become a member of the Georgia Poetry Society, see website for membership information and application.

OTHER GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Quarterly meetings
Annual *Reach of Song* anthology
Poetry in the Schools Projects
Poetry RoadShow



Tuesday, November 4, 2008 is Election Day

Please VOTE!



GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY (GPS) WANTS YOU

Each year the society sponsors a number of youth poetry contests. In recent years the number of schools participating has been low, and the primary problem has been getting information about the contests into the hands of teachers willing to take the time necessary to assist students to participate. The GPS contest committee needs your help in spreading the word. If you know teachers or have contacts in the schools in your area, please assist us by encouraging the schools to take part in these contests. Complete contest information including rules and guidelines can be found at www.georgiapoetrysociety.org, and submission forms are also posted there, but the following information is provided to assist you in communicating word about the contests to the schools in your area. These contests are free to the schools and students, and cash prizes are awarded. If you have questions about the Youth Contests, please contact Dr. Robert Simon (rob170b@aol.com) or Ron Self (smrws@aol.com) or 706-649-3080 for more information. Please make copies of this information to pass on to your schools.

YOUTH COMPETITIONS

The Georgia Poetry Society conducts annual awards programs for students in grades 1-12 enrolled in a Georgia public or private school or home-schooled at a permanent Georgia address. Information on the Margery Carlson Prize and the Marel Brown Prize is located in the column to the right and at the GPS website, www.georgiapoetrysociety.org, which also contains a printable copy of the required entry form.

ELIGIBILITY

Any student in grades 1-12 enrolled in a Georgia public or private school or home-schooled at a permanent Georgia address.

► Fees: There are no entry fees for this contest.

► Prizes (1st/2nd/3rd):

- \$15/ \$10/ \$5 (Margery Carlson, grades 1-5)
- \$20/ \$15/ \$10 (Marel Brown, grades 6-8)
- \$25/ \$20/ \$15 (Marel Brown, grades 9-12)

Prize-winners also receive a copy of the issue of *The Reach of Song* that contains winning youth poems.

PRIZES FOR YOUTH POETRY

The Margery Carlson Prize is awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students in grades 1-5.

The Marel Brown Prize is a two-tier contest with prizes awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students in grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

RESTRICTIONS

Poems must be accompanied by entry form (a printable copy of the form is available on the GPS website at www.georgiapoetrysociety.org).

- Length of poem: maximum of 32 lines.
- Only one entry per student.
- Maximum of four poems per school.
- Subject: Any subject in good taste, any poetic form.
- Poem must be student's original and unpublished work. Teachers should ensure that works are not plagiarized.

HOW TO ENTER POEMS:

To guide submissions, please adhere to these format considerations:

- Type or word-process on standard 8.5x11 white paper. Grades 1-5 may submit hand-written entries. Please ensure legibility.
- Do not include illustrations.
- Select a standard font such as Times-Roman rather than an unconventional font (such as Script or Gothic). Use fonts no larger than 14-point.
- One poem per page. Poems must be in English.
- Submit two copies of the poem, one ***without*** author identification. The copy ***with*** identification should be taped or stapled to the entry form. Retain a copy of the poem submitted as they cannot be returned.
- Send all manuscripts from the same school in one envelope with school name and grade level on the envelope exterior.
- No entries accepted from individual students unless home-schooled. Winners will be posted on the Society website at the completion of competition.
- Entry form ***must accompany each poem*** and must be complete. Form must be signed ***both*** by the student submitter and the sponsoring teacher.
- No emailed or disk entries accepted. Entries should be mailed to: Georgia Poetry Society, P.O. Box 2184, Columbus, Georgia 31902 (Note: the Georgia Poetry Society mailing address usually follows the President. When a new President of the Society is elected, the mailing address may change. It is recommended that entrants check the website to verify the current mailing address at time of submission.)

DEADLINE

All entries must be ***postmarked no later than January 31, 2009 or following Monday February 2nd since January 31, 2009 is a Saturday.***

Judges: The Georgia Poetry Society will select qualified judges who will receive the copies without author identification. Winners will be announced at the April 2009 meeting of the Society. Winners are invited, but not required, to appear with parents and/or teachers to receive their awards. The Georgia Poetry Society reserves the right to publish prize-winning poems in its annual anthology *The Reach of Song*. Until published, rights rest with the Society. After publication, or a decision not to publish, rights revert to the author.