



President's Corner

By Barbara Barry-Nishanian

Dear Poets and Friends,

The recent cool mornings remind me that fall is here, bringing the beauty and excitement that only fall offers. Excitement is also near for you and GPS, as we have been busy with new ideas and plans to support your personal growth, career advancement, skill development, and more exciting opportunities. Most importantly, we want to build a stronger community among our members... think of GPS as a "Family." Our special bond is our love of poetry.



Since becoming vice president and especially now as president, it has been very important to me that each of you feels a sense of belonging. That you are assured that your ideas are welcomed, and that you will be heard. More so as we move forward! We want to assure you that the board's goal is to provide support and encouragement, along with opportunities for skill development, contests, and publications throughout Georgia and beyond.

I'd like feedback on this question: How did you enjoy the August 2025 redesigned newsletter? Hope you were listening... feedback, please! It is now under the direction of our new editor, Kimberly Wright. This monthly newsletter, as you have seen, will offer various means of supporting you, educating you, promoting you, etc. You can help be the driving force behind your GPS newsletter by providing Kimberly

with ideas, information, etc., she can gather for future issues.

Also, a friendly reminder, submit title ideas for this, as of now, unnamed little jewel. The Newsletter and GPS website will mirror much of the same information, keeping you up to date in more than one way. In the same focus, this is less formal ideas wanted to get to you.

Finally, please note that as a member of the Georgia Poetry Society, you are also a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, and as such, you have access to poetry contests offered by our sister organizations throughout the country. Check out [Strophes, the NFSPS newsletter](#), to see all they have to offer!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[President's Corner](#)

[GPS Events](#)

[Poetry Contest](#)

[Next Open Mic](#)

[Meet and Greet](#)

[Newsletter Is Going Bimonthly](#)

[Did you know?](#)

[GPS Has Online Professional Development Courses](#)

[Board Positions Open to Membership](#)

[Now Accepting Submissions for The Reach of Song](#)

[Poetry Challenge](#)

[This Month's Poetry Prompt](#)

[Suggested Reading](#)

[Upcoming Ga. Literary Events](#)

[Atlanta Writers Conference](#)

[Johns Creek Literary Fair](#)

[What's In a Name?](#)

[CONTACTS](#)



GPS Events

Poetry Contest

There's just enough time to have a members-only poetry contest before the year ends!

Please send us a single entry on any theme and in any style. Include the poem's title along with your name and contact information in the body of an email to: VP@georgiapoetrysociety.org. Include your poem as an attachment to the email.

Entries will be accepted until end-of-day Oct. 31. First, second and third place winners will be announced in our November newsletter and invited to read their poems at the Nov. 20 Open Mic.

Prizes are: First Place, \$25; Second Place, \$15; Third Place, \$10.

Meet and Greet

- Nov. 8, 11 a.m.

Do you want a little no-pressure chat or to reach out to GPS members? The Georgia Poetry Society regularly holds meet and greets, and you are welcome to Zoom on by, bring (or meet!) a friend and introduce yourself. This is an informal meeting that we'll use to take feedback and questions.

Next Open Mic

- Nov 20., 7 p.m., online via Zoom.

Newsletter Is Going Bimonthly

The Georgia Poetry Society Newsletter will henceforth be a bimonthly publication. This gives us more time to make this volunteer-produced publication the best it can be.

Expect the next edition of the newsletter to come out in January, with publication every two months thereafter.

Did you know?

GPS Has Online Professional Development Courses

Did you know we have courses available to strengthen your skills as a poet and marketer of your own work?

Check out the [courses section](#) of the GPS website to tap into this education. It includes a [free email course on marketing](#).

Other courses include [Poetry Online: Build Your First Blog or Website](#) and [Take Your Poetry Marketing to the Next Level](#), which was newly unveiled in June. This intermediate-level course includes 8+ hours of content, 38 in-depth lessons and seven lessons completely free to explore.

Take advantage of these resources to improve the business side of your poetry life.

Board Positions Open to Membership

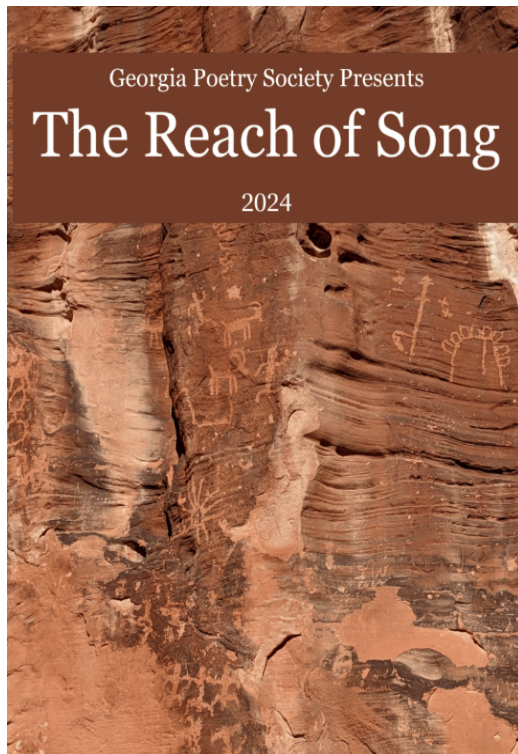
The Georgia Poetry Society is getting in shape and preparing to offer our members a variety of opportunities and resources to support their growth as poets in Georgia. Currently, we have a few positions open on our board of directors, and we'd like to fill those roles with qualified members of our poetry community. If you're interested in any of the positions listed below, please email Michelle Alderman at VP@georgiapoetrysociety.org. Include 'GPS Board' in the subject line, and attach your resume or CV, or a brief explanation of relevant qualifications. A strong desire to do the work can matter more than a lack of skills if you are willing to learn as you go.

Please note that all of these board positions are voluntary and unpaid. Board members meet regularly through Zoom.

Available Positions:

- **Treasurer** – monitor, maintain, and advise on GPS finances. Relevant experience required. This is an Executive Committee position.
- **Legal Counsel** – advisory position
- **Events Chairman** – plan and coordinate programs and events in and throughout Georgia
- **Contest Manager** – plan and coordinate of poetry contests in and throughout Georgia
- **Historian** – maintain and continue historical record of the organization in its various forms
- **Bookstore and Promotional Products Manager** – monitor the receipt, sales, and distribution of member publications and GPS products.
- **Managing Editor, Reach of Song Anthology** – plan and coordinate overall publication process
- **Volunteers** - board members live in different locations across Georgia. This necessitates volunteers in various locations to assist board members with preparing and following through on multiple projects or to take on projects themselves to support GPS goals in Georgia.

This position can be short-term, long-term, temporary, or event-based, as the volunteer determines.



Now Accepting Submissions for *The Reach of Song*

The Georgia Poetry Society is now accepting submissions from members for the next Reach of Song Anthology, to be published later this year.

Members are encouraged to submit up to three poems each for consideration.

Members who have shared poems at any GPS Open Mic on our YouTube channel since October 2023 are especially encouraged to submit those works.

Submission Requirements:

Submit up to three poems by email. Combine your entries into a single document and attach it to an email addressed to gpsreachofsong@gmail.com.

Please include your contact information in the email body:

- your name and/or pen name,
- address,
- phone number,
- email address,
- the titles of your submissions.

Poems that include foul language will not be considered for publication. Every member who submits their work will be guaranteed publication of at least one poem.

Want to Be the Next Person We Feature on Spotlight On?

Do you have a new book coming out or a new publication in literary journals? Did you just win a contest? Are you taking part in a book fair or have another neat achievement you'd like to crow about?

This newsletter is the space for you! Please reach out to newsletter@georgiapoetrysociety.org.



William Shakespeare (Image by WikiImages from Pixabay)

Poetry Challenge

Each month during Open Mic, a member is asked to suggest a poetry form for everyone to try for the next Open Mic.

Members can choose whether to accept the challenge or not, but those who do are given the first opportunity to read their poem at the event.

We hope you will accept this challenge!

This month the form is:

Sonnet

One of the more familiar traditional poetry forms, the sonnet is 14-lines and typically rhyming and written in iambic pentameter.

The rhyme scheme and composition varies.

Of course, you are likely familiar with the three familiar varieties of sonnets, Petrarchan (eight-line stanza rhyming ABBAABBA followed by a six-line stanza), Italian (Petrarchan with a slightly different rhyme scheme for the second stanza) and Shakesperian (one stanza with three quatrains and a concluding couplet), but so many more varieties exist.

A famous example of the Petrarchan sonnet is Elizabeth Barret Browning's, "[Sonnets from the Portuguese 43: How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.](#)"

For a noteworthy example of the Italian sonnet, turn to John Donne's "[Holy Sonnets: If poisonous minerals, and if that tree.](#)"

A good example of the Shakesperian sonnet is Claude McKay's "[America.](#)"

For more information on the historical significance and variety of the sonnet form, read this article from the Poetry Foundation, "[Learning the Sonnet.](#)"

See you at the next Open Mic, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., online via Zoom.



Roswell History Museum, featuring a talkative poster of President Theodore Roosevelt (*Photo by Kimberly L. Wright*)

This Month's Poetry Prompt

Each month, GPS offers a poetry prompt to help our members explore new ideas for writing or possibly break a dry spell.

Here is an idea inspired by *Poetry of Place: Helping Students Write Their Words* by Terry Hermsen: take a field trip to a place in your town you've driven by but never set foot inside.

Among Hermsen's recommended field trips: a science fair, a restored theater, an art museum, or a historical society.

For instance, Roswell has a small history museum on the second floor of the Roswell Cultural Arts Center that is free and open to the public, where you will be greeted as soon as you open the door by a large poster of President Theodore Roosevelt and a recorded message done in the style of his speech. It has quite an effect.

Get inspired by what you see. The game is to wander with a poet's eyes, gathering facts, making observations and interviewing the docent. Then, take what you've learned and write.

This exercise might provide a great opportunity to explore persona poetry. Become one of the people of the past seen at the historical museum or one of the tools you see at the museum. Let your ideas flow.

Suggested Reading

A Face to Meet the Faces: An Anthology of Contemporary Persona Poetry, edited by Stacey Lynn Brown and Oliver de la Paz.

This anthology is packed with examples of persona poetry and is divided into sections delving into historical, contemporary and imaginary personas. Through these poems, confront the evils of the past or the banalities of the recent past. Every poem you read in this collection is well worth reading even if just to challenge your notions of what a persona poem can be and what poetry can tell us about the masks we wear.

In this Halloween season, it can be refreshing to don a mask and consider perspectives other than

one's own. A persona poem provides a way for a poet to delve into the intricacies of character and the fullness of a world not one's own.

Among the haunting poems in this collection is "Chorus of X, the Rescuer's Mark" by Iain Haley Pollock, a sparse but chilling reflection on Hurricane Katrina. You can read more about the poet [here](#).

Other poets included in this anthology include the late Jake Adam York, Ilya Kaminsky, Camille T. Dungy, Keetje Kuipers, Collin Kelley and many others.

The anthology can be purchased on [Powell's Books](#), [Books-A-Million](#), [Bookshop](#), [Amazon](#), or wherever good books are sold. It may also be available for checkout at your local library.

Upcoming Ga. Literary Events

Atlanta Writers Conference

- Oct. 24-25
- Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel

Registration required.

Price varies, see [pricing](#) for details.

Johns Creek Literary Fair

- Nov. 15, 12 to 5 p.m., free
- City Hall, 11360 Lakefield Dr, Johns Creek

Speakers include Karen White and former Gov. Nathan Deal.

Know of a poetry or literary event we should feature? Submit your news to newsletter@georgiapoetrysociety.org.

What's In a Name?

The Georgia Poetry Society newsletter is a vital resource for members seeking inspiration, writing tools, informative articles, updates on poetry events across the state, and fellowship with fellow Georgia poets. Therefore, we aim to give our newsletter a name that reflects the essence of who we are as a community of poets in Georgia.

Please put on your creative thinking caps and share your ideas for a newsletter name that embodies the Georgia roots and poetic ambitions of GPS. Below is a short list to spark your imagination. Select your favorites or suggest something different. Send your newsletter name ideas to vp@georgiapoetrysociety.org with 'Newsletter Name' in the subject line. A committee will select three to five favorites to include for a membership vote. We look forward to your suggestions.

Newsletter name suggestions:

- Georgia Verse
- Kudzu Chronicle
- The Georgia Stanza
- The Georgia Sonnet
- Peach State Poetics

CONTACTS

OFFICERS

- Barbara Barry-Nishanian – President
President@georgiapoetrysociety.org
- Michelle Flannery-Alderman – Vice President
VP@georgiapoetrysociety.org
- Alice Johnson – Secretary
Secretary@georgiapoetrysociety.org
- VACANT – Treasurer
Treasurer@georgiapoetrysociety.org

BOARD MEMBERS

- Elizabeth John – Member Outreach Chair
- VACANT – Education Chair
- VACANT – Reach of Song Editor
- Sharon Schroeder – CSRA Affiliate

- Lucinda Clark – Past President and NSFPS Liaison
- Jill Jennings – Member-at-Large

CONTACT INFO

- Bookstore –
bookstore@georgiapoetrysociety.org
- Contests –
contests@georgiapoetrysociety.org
- Newsletter –
newsletter@georgiapoetrysociety.org
- Membership –
membership@georgiapoetrysociety.org
- Reach Of Song Editor –
roseditor@georgiapoetrysociety.org
- General Contact –
info@georgiapoetrysociety.org

Find the Georgia Poetry Society on the web at www.georgiapoetrysociety.org, on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).



(Image by Ben Kerck from Pixabay)