



PEACH PRESERVES

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Georgia Poetry Society Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Summer is well underway in Georgia, and I hope you're finding a little joy in these long, warm days. From the beaches to the mountains, folks and families are filling their free time with travel, rest, and all the small pleasures this season brings.

With so many of us scattered and savoring summer activities, we've decided not to hold a July Quarterly Membership Meeting. We'll gather again in late October, refreshed and ready to share the organization's programs, plans, and developments, as well as member news and accomplishments.

For the remainder of the summer, Peach Preserves will publish a series of articles meant to help new and existing poets learn more about the publication process and the tools available to help make that process more accessible.

You'll find practical tools for navigating the submission process, choosing journals, and exploring resources like Duotrope and Submittable.

In addition, there is a long list of submission resources to peruse. Whether you're brand-new to submitting or simply looking for a little guidance, these features

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Understanding Journal Tiers: How to Choose Where to Submit Your Work

For poets beginning (or returning to) the submission process, the publishing landscape can feel overwhelming. Journals vary widely in visibility, competitiveness, editorial taste, and acceptance rates. One helpful way to navigate this landscape is by using an informal “tiered system” — a way of grouping journals by their selectivity and reputation.

These tiers are not official or rigid, but they offer a practical framework for deciding where to send your work and how to build a balanced submission strategy. Below is a clear explanation of how the tiers work — and how to determine where your poems might fit.

How to Find Acceptance Rates (and Why They Matter)

Acceptance rates help you understand how competitive a journal is. They’re not a judgment of quality — they simply reflect how many submissions a journal receives compared to how many pieces it publishes.

Here’s where to find them:

1. Duotrope

- The most reliable source for acceptance rates
- Shows average response times, user-reported acceptance data, and submission volume
- Requires a subscription, but the information is detailed and updated regularly

2. The Journal’s Website

Some journals publish their acceptance rates or submission statistics directly on their site, often in the “About” or “FAQ” section.

3. Submittable (Indirect Clues)

Submittable doesn’t list acceptance rates, but you can sometimes infer competitiveness by:

- how quickly submissions fill
- how many submissions they receive
- how long they take to respond

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“Publishing is not a race – it’s a conversation. Tiers simply help you choose which rooms to enter first.”

Understanding Journal Tiers:

How to Choose Where to Submit Your Work, *continued*

4. Community Knowledge

Writers' forums, social media groups, and literary communities often share informal insights about how selective certain journals are.

5. Your Own Tracking

Over time, your personal submission history becomes a valuable data source. Patterns emerge:

- which journals respond quickly
- which ones rarely accept unsolicited work
- which ones seem open to emerging voices

Acceptance rates are just one tool — but they help you set realistic expectations and build a healthy submission rhythm.

Tier 1: Highly Prestigious Journals

Acceptance rate: ~0.1–5% Examples: Poetry Magazine, Plowshares, Kenyon Review, AGNI, Rattle

Characteristics:

- Extremely competitive
- Often publish nationally recognized poets
- High visibility and career impact

Best for: Your strongest, most polished work — the pieces you've revised deeply and believe in fully.

Tier 2: Strong, Well-Respected Journals

Acceptance rate: ~5–15% Examples: Missouri Review, Beloit Poetry Journal, Cincinnati Review

Characteristics:

- Prestigious but more accessible
- Excellent editorial quality
- Strong readership

Best for: Work that is polished, confident, and ready for a national audience.

Tier 3: Solid Mid-Tier Journals

Acceptance rate: ~15–30% Examples: Thrush Poetry Journal, diode, Sixth Finch

Characteristics:

- Well-curated
- Open to emerging voices
- Often publish innovative or distinctive work

Best for: Poems that are polished and compelling, especially if they lean toward the lyrical, experimental, or intimate.

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Understanding Journal Tiers:

How to Choose Where to Submit Your Work, *continued*

Tier 4: Approachable Journals

Acceptance rate: ~30–60% Examples: Autumn Sky Poetry Daily, Last Leaves Magazine

Characteristics:

- Supportive of new writers
- Faster response times
- Often online, with broad accessibility

Best for: Writers building publication credits or trying new styles.

Tier 5: High-Acceptance Journals

Acceptance rate: ~60–80% Examples: Community journals, themed anthologies, newer online magazines

Characteristics:

- Very open to emerging writers
- Great for building confidence and momentum

Best for: Writers beginning their submission journey or experimenting with new work.

How to Choose the Right Tier for Your Work

1. Submit upward, then outward

Start with a few Tier 2–3 journals that match your style. Add a couple of Tier 1 journals for stretch goals. Include Tier 4–5 journals for balance and momentum.

2. Match your poem to the journal's aesthetic

Read a few pieces from each venue. Ask: Does my poem feel at home here?

3. Track your submissions

Use Duotrope, Submittable, or your own spreadsheet.

4. Build a ladder

Each acceptance strengthens your confidence and your cover letter.

5. Remember: rejection is not a verdict

It's often about fit, timing, or editorial taste — not quality.

Why This Matters

Understanding tiers helps you submit more strategically, avoid discouragement, and build a publication record that grows naturally. It also helps you place your work where it will be appreciated and read by the right audience.

Publishing is not a race — it's a conversation. Tiers simply help you choose which rooms to enter first.



Using Duotrope and Submittable: What They Are and How They Help Writers

For poets and writers looking to submit their work, two tools come up again and again: Duotrope and Submittable. Although they often appear together in conversations about publishing, they serve very different purposes. Here's a clear overview to help you decide which one fits your needs.

What Is Duotrope?

Duotrope is a database and tracking service for writers. It helps you find places to submit your work and keep track of your submissions.

What it offers:

- A searchable database of thousands of journals, magazines, contests, and publishers
- Detailed listings with response times, acceptance rates, and reading periods
- A personal submission tracker
- Weekly or daily market updates
- The ability to bookmark favorite venues
- Statistics based on user-reported data

Cost:

- \$6 per month or \$60 per year
- No free tier, but the fee supports the database and keeps it ad-free

Advantages:

- Excellent for discovering new journals
- Helps you match your work to the right markets
- Tracks your submissions automatically
- Provides realistic expectations about response times

- Especially helpful for poets and short-form writers

Disadvantages:

- Requires a paid subscription
- Data depends on user reporting, so some journals may have limited statistics
- Not all journals are listed (though most reputable ones are)

What Is Submittable?

Submittable is a submission platform — the place where you actually send your work. Many journals, contests, and organizations use it to manage submissions.

What it offers:

- A clean, user-friendly interface for submitting work
- A dashboard showing all your submissions and their status
- Email notifications when your work moves through review stages
- Secure payment processing for reading fees (when applicable)

Cost:

- Free for writers
- You only pay if the journal charges a reading fee

Advantages:

- Easy to use
- Keeps all your submissions in one place
- Shows real-time status updates ("Received," "In-Progress," "In-Final Consideration," etc.)
- Used by many reputable journals and contests

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Submission Resources for Poets

Whether you're new to submitting or looking to expand your reach, these tools can help you discover journals, track submissions, and stay informed about opportunities in the literary world.

Market & Submission Tracking Tools

(For full descriptions of Duotrope and Submittable, see this month's Feature Article.)

Duotrope — Comprehensive journal database and submission tracker

Submittable — Widely used platform for sending and managing submissions

Journal Discovery & Research

Poets & Writers – Literary Magazines Database

A free, reliable directory of journals and presses. Great for browsing journals, reading editorial preferences, and finding open submission windows.

The Review Review (Archive)

Offers journal reviews and editorial insights. Helpful for understanding a publication's tone and aesthetic.

Entropy Magazine – Where to Submit (Archive)

Seasonal lists of open calls and themed issues. Useful for discovering new or emerging journals.

Contests & Opportunities

Poets & Writers – Grants & Awards

A vetted, regularly updated database of contests, fellowships, and awards.

Submittable Discover

A searchable list of open calls, contests, residencies, and themed issues hosted on Submittable.

Craft, Community & Professional Development

Authors Publish

Workshops, lectures, and curated submission opportunities.

Affordable online workshops (April & October)

Free and paid live video lectures

Free weekly newsletter with open calls

A practical, approachable resource for ongoing craft development.

The Poetry Foundation

Poems, poet biographies, and articles. Excellent for studying contemporary poetry.

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Using Duotrope and Submittable: What They Are and How They Help Writers, *continued*

Disadvantages:

- Not all journals use Submittable
- Some journals charge reading fees (not Submittable's fault, but it happens on the platform)
- You can't search for journals within Submittable — you must already know where you're submitting

Which One Do You Need?

Many writers use both:

- Duotrope to find journals
- Submittable to submit to them

Duotrope is your research tool. Submittable is your submission tool. Together, they make the submission process smoother, more organized, and more informed

UPDATE: THE REACH OF SONG 2025–2026

All entries for the 2025–2026 edition of *The Reach of Song* have now been received, and our editorial team has begun the process of reviewing and organizing the submissions. This stage always brings a wonderful sense of anticipation as we read through the work our members have entrusted to us.

Over the coming months, we'll move through selection, editing, and layout as we prepare the anthology for publication. Our goal is to have the finished volume ready for release in the fall of this year.

We'll continue to share updates in this newsletter as the project progresses. Thank you to everyone who submitted work and continues to support this long-standing GPS tradition.

Submission Resources for Poets, *continued*

The Academy of American Poets (poets.org)

What it is: A hub for poems, essays, and educational resources. Best for: Craft study, inspiration, and teaching materials. Cost: Free.

Writer's Digest

What it is: Articles, prompts, and publishing advice. Best for: General writing guidance and industry insights. Cost: Free articles; paid courses optional.

Submission Tools You Can Create Yourself

Personal Submission Spreadsheet

What it is: A simple tracking tool you build in Excel, Google Sheets, or a notebook. Best for: Writers who prefer a custom system. Why it's useful: You can track:

- poem titles
- journals submitted to
- dates sent
- responses
- notes on fit or feedback

Reading Log

What it is: A list of journals you've read and liked. Best for: Matching your work to the right venues. Why it's useful: Helps you submit more strategically.

Final Note

You don't need every tool on this list. Start with one or two that feel natural, and build from there. The goal is to make the submission process smoother, more informed, and more enjoyable — not overwhelming.

A Few Gentle Submission Reminders

As you explore this month's submission tools and resources, here are a few small tips to keep your process smooth:

- Keep a simple list of where you've submitted — it saves time and prevents overlap.
- Read at least one poem from a journal before sending your own.
- Don't rush. A poem that rests for a week often returns stronger.
- Celebrate every submission, not just the acceptances.

Submitting is part of the writing life, and each step — even the quiet ones — moves you forward.

President's Corner, *continued*

are meant to make the path to publication feel a bit clearer and a lot more encouraging.

Our IT Manager, Marion Owen, has been developing online courses for our members. These short, self-guided videos are poet-focused, easy to understand, and free for GPS members. You'll find more information elsewhere in the newsletter.

I also want to take a moment to thank our Newsletter Editor, Michelle, for the thoughtful research she brings us each month. Her efforts give our members real, usable information for finding publishers, promoting their work, and gaining visibility in the wider literary community. It's a gift to all of us.

Enjoy your July days, wherever they take you. I hope to see you at our Open Mic nights, where the welcome is warm and the poetry is always good company.

Warmly,
Barbara Barry Nishanian
President, Georgia Poetry Society

The Value of Reading Widely

One of the best ways to strengthen your submission strategy is to read widely — not just the journals you hope to publish in, but the ones you've never heard of. Each publication has its own voice, rhythm, and sensibility. When you read across styles and aesthetics, you begin to understand where your poems naturally belong. You may even discover new journals that feel like home. Reading widely isn't just research; it's nourishment. It keeps your creative well full and your poetic instincts sharp.

GPS Quarterly Membership Meeting Update

The Georgia Poetry Society will not hold a Quarterly Membership Meeting in July.

With many members traveling, hosting events, and enjoying summer activities, we are pausing our mid-year meeting.

Our next Quarterly Membership Meeting will take place in November, when we gather again to share updates, celebrate member accomplishments, and look ahead to the coming year.

Until then, enjoy the remainder of summer — may it be restful, creative, and full of good poems.

If you have information to share about upcoming poetry-related events in your community, or personal accomplishments like publication, please drop us a line at vp@georgiapoetrysociety.org to let us know. Timely information will be shared in the newsletter.

Happy 250th Birthday America

The New Colossus
By Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”



Is It Time to Have Your Own Poetry Blog or Website?

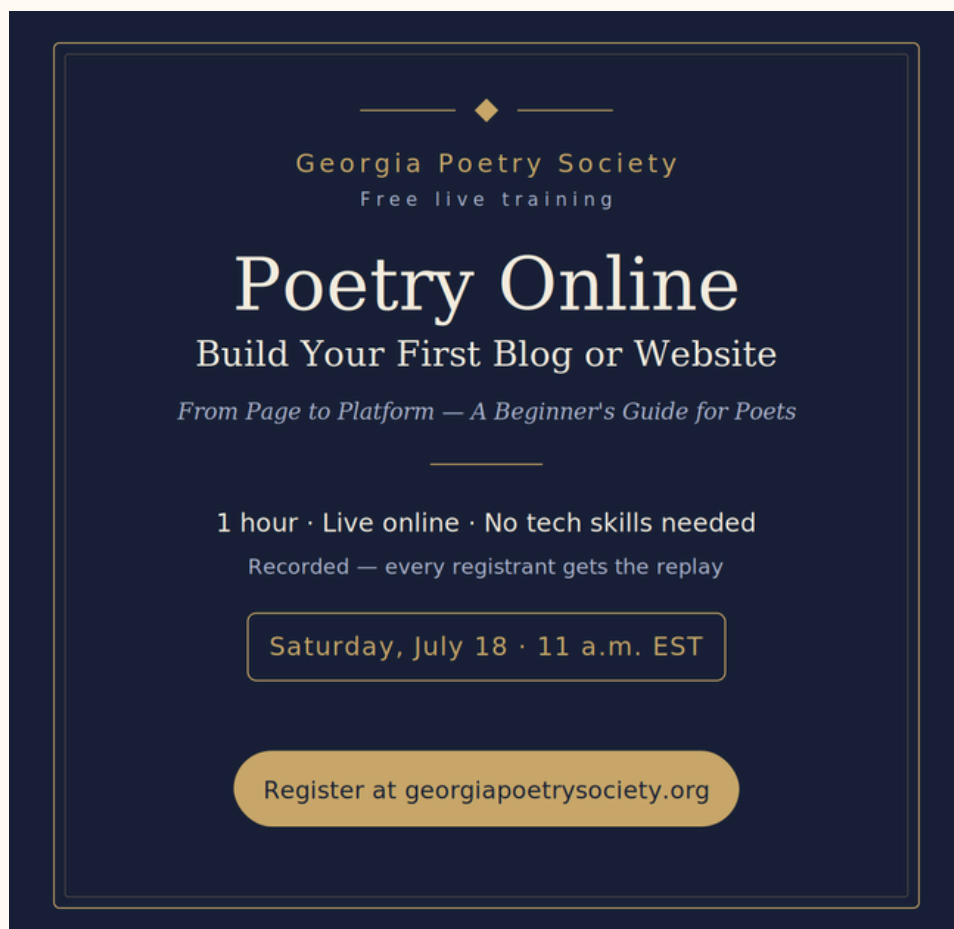
Poets put so much heart into their work — it deserves a place where it can breathe, be found, and be celebrated. If you've been wanting a website but didn't know where to start, join us for Poetry Online: Build Your First Blog or Website, a free, hour-long live training created for poets who want clarity without the tech headache.

This session is free for both GPS members and non-members, so feel free to invite a friend or writing partner. You'll watch a complete poetry website come to life, step by step, and walk away knowing exactly how to build your own. No fancy terms. No confusion. Just a friendly, practical session that finally makes the process feel doable.

 July 18th at 11 a.m. · Live online

Busy that day? Register anyway — we'll send the recording to everyone.

👉 Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/PoetryWebsite18>



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Georgia Poetry Society
Free live training

Poetry Online

Build Your First Blog or Website

From Page to Platform — A Beginner's Guide for Poets

—

1 hour · Live online · No tech skills needed
Recorded — every registrant gets the replay

Saturday, July 18 · 11 a.m. EST

Register at georgiapoetrysociety.org