



PEACH PRESERVES

SEPT 2026
ISSUE 202609

Georgia Poetry Society Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There is something special about gathering together, sharing our poems and ideas, enjoying good conversation, and hearing what our fellow poets have been writing. Since our regular meetings are currently on Zoom, these monthly evenings give us an especially nice opportunity to see one another and stay connected between our quarterly meetings.

Our Open Mic is a wonderful opportunity to read a short poem and let other GPS members hear what you've been working on. You don't have to have a new poem every month – just come and share one you enjoy.

One important reminder for poets: Please don't read a poem at our Open Mic that you are planning to submit for publication or enter into a contest. Our Open Mic is always recorded and posted to our YouTube channel. This indicates that your poem has been published, and most editors won't accept a previously published poem. We certainly don't want you to give up any opportunity you may have for publication.

INDEX

President's Corner continued	1 6
Crossing the Threshold: The Ethics of AI In Poetic Creation	2
At The Gate: How Editors Are Navigating AI Assisted Poetry	3
The Human Line: Authenticity and the Future of Poetry in an AI Age	4
Resource Spotlight: An Exploratory Study of GPT-4o Poetry 2024	5
Open Mic	6

continued on page 6

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD: THE ETHICS OF AI IN POETIC CREATION

Poets today are standing at a new creative threshold, one shaped not by a change in form or movement, but by the arrival of tools that can generate language. Artificial intelligence has entered the studio, the workshop, and the drafting table — and with it comes a set of ethical questions that poets are still learning how to navigate.

For many writers, AI feels like an extension of familiar aids: a thesaurus with wider reach, a brainstorming partner that never tires, a prompt generator capable of surprising leaps. Used this way, AI supports the poet's own authorship rather than replacing it. But once a tool begins producing actual lines, the boundary between assistance and authorship becomes less clear. Who wrote the poem — the poet who shaped it, or the system that supplied its language?

Voice integrity is another concern. Poets spend years developing the idiosyncrasies that make their work unmistakably theirs: the syntax that bends toward a certain music, the emotional logic that guides an image, the associative leaps that reveal a mind at work. AI can imitate these patterns, but imitation is not identity. Many poets worry that relying too heavily on generated language risks diluting the very voice they've worked to cultivate.

Transparency may be the emerging ethical anchor. Whether a poet uses AI for idea generation, line editing, or full drafting, disclosure helps maintain trust between writer and reader. And beneath all of this lies a deeper craft question: poetry is rooted in lived experience — can a tool without experience contribute ethically to an art built on human truth?

“Ethics is the compass that guides artificial intelligence towards responsible and beneficial outcomes. Without ethical considerations, AI becomes a tool of chaos and harm.”

— Sri Amit Ray, Ethical AI Systems: Frameworks, Principles, and Advanced Practices

AT THE GATE: HOW EDITORS ARE NAVIGATING AI-ASSISTED POETRY

As AI becomes more present in the literary landscape, editors are rapidly developing new ways to evaluate how — and whether — it has shaped a submitted poem. The result is a patchwork of evolving practices, each reflecting a journal's philosophy about authorship, craft, and the role of technology in creative work.

Many journals now address AI directly in their submission guidelines. Some prohibit AI-generated writing outright, emphasizing that poems must originate from the poet's own language and imagination. Others allow limited AI assistance if the poet can demonstrate substantial human revision — a clear sign that the poet, not the tool, is the creative force behind the work.

Detection tools are also entering the editorial workflow. These programs attempt to identify AI-generated text, but they remain imperfect. Highly lyrical, experimental, or syntactically unusual poems are often flagged incorrectly, creating new challenges for editors who must balance technological help with human judgment.

Underlying these practices is a deeper editorial philosophy. Some editors hold firmly that poetry is a human art form and must remain human-made. Others are open to hybrid work, provided the poet's intention, craft decisions, and voice remain central.

A growing number of journals are adopting what might be called the “handmade” standard: the poem must originate in the poet's mind, even if AI helped refine it. In this transitional moment, editors are not just gatekeepers — they are shaping the future ethics of poetic creation.

“We publish poems—not prompts. If your process involves AI, we ask that you be able to articulate how the poem bears your distinct aesthetic choices, revisions, and conceptual labor.” - Aireia D. Matthews, Editor, Michigan Quarterly Review

The Human Line: Authenticity and the Future of Poetry in an AI Age

Behind the scenes, poets are asking a deeper question than whether AI is “allowed” in poetry. They’re asking what poetry is — and what it is for. As AI becomes more capable of generating language, the conversation is shifting from mechanics to meaning, from technique to authenticity.

Poetry has long been rooted in embodied experience: sensory memory, emotional truth, the lived moments that shape a poet’s inner world. AI has none of these. It can produce lines that resemble poetry, but it cannot feel the heat of a childhood summer or the grief of a final goodbye. This raises a central question: if a poem does not arise from human experience, can it carry the authenticity readers seek?

Many poets also argue that the struggle of writing is part of the art. Revision, doubt, discovery — these are not obstacles but essential elements of craft. If AI shortcuts that process, does the resulting poem lose something vital? Or can the poet’s intention still anchor the work?

As AI advances, poets may need to articulate what makes human poetry irreplaceable. This transitional moment offers an opportunity rather than a threat: a chance to clarify aesthetic values, deepen craft commitments, and reaffirm the role of human imagination.

In an age of intelligent machines, the human line — shaped by experience, effort, and emotional truth — may become more important than ever.

“Poems are made of our own feelings, our own questions, our own discoveries. They are evidence of our having been alive.”
TraCy K. Smith, US Poet Laureate 2017-2019

An Exploratory Study of GPT-4o Poetry 2024

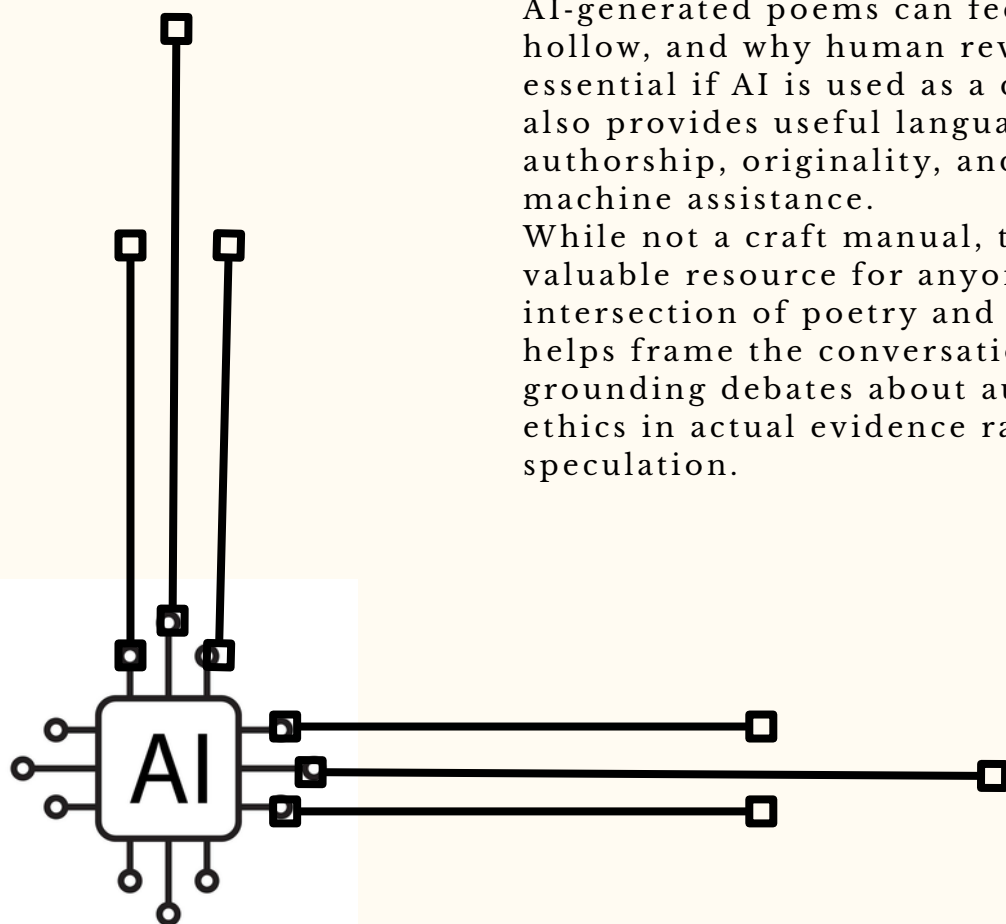


Book Review:

This slim but illuminating volume offers one of the first close examinations of how a contemporary AI model generates poetry — and what its output reveals about machine-made language. Rather than presenting AI poems as curiosities, the authors treat them as artifacts worth studying: How does the model handle metaphor? What patterns emerge in its syntax? Where does it succeed, and where does it falter?

The book's greatest strength is its clarity. It avoids hype and alarmism, focusing instead on observable behaviors. Readers see how GPT-4o imitates poetic forms, how it leans on familiar emotional tropes, and how its “voice” shifts depending on prompts. The analysis highlights both the model's surprising fluency and its limitations — especially its tendency toward generalized sentiment rather than lived specificity. For poets and editors, the study offers practical insight. It demonstrates why AI-generated poems can feel polished yet hollow, and why human revision remains essential if AI is used as a drafting tool. It also provides useful language for discussing authorship, originality, and the boundaries of machine assistance.

While not a craft manual, the book is a valuable resource for anyone navigating the intersection of poetry and technology. It helps frame the conversation with nuance, grounding debates about authenticity and ethics in actual evidence rather than speculation.



President's Corner, continued

To join us on Zoom for Open Mic – the third Thursday evening of each month) please visit the Georgia Poetry Society website for the meeting information and registration.

We'd also love to hear about the good things happening in your poetic lives! If you published a new book over the summer, or have a book coming out this fall, please send your information to Michelle Alderman at vp@georgiapoetrysociety.org so we can include it in an upcoming newsletter. Please remember, we'd love to include your book in our GPS Bookstore. These are just a couple of the ways we can support and celebrate the work of our members.

Finally, don't keep GPS a secret! If you know poets who belong to other poetry organizations, please invite them to join us. They do not have to live in Georgia to become part of the Georgia Poetry Society and enjoy all that GPS has to offer. The more poets we bring together, the richer our community becomes.

I hope to see many more of you on Zoom now that summer is behind us. Until then, keep writing, keep reading, and keep sharing your poetry. And please remember, you can always call me. I'm happy to hear from you any time after 1:00 p.m.

Warmly,
Barbara Barry Nishanian
President, Georgia Poetry Society



GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

OPEN MIC

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

Hosted on Zoom • 7:00 PM

Join us for an evening of poetry, community, and connection. All are welcome—whether you'd like to read, listen, or simply enjoy the company of fellow writers.

Hosted by:
Barbara Barry Nishanian
President,
Georgia Poetry Society

Bring a poem to share, or come to enjoy the voices of our GPS community.

ZoomLink: May 21 Open Mic
Link: [Georgia Poetry Society](https://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org).

Follow Georgia Poetry Society On:

