

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Georgia Poetry Society: Serving Georgia's Poets Since 1979
Volume 28, Number 2: Summer 2006

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

By Ron Self

On behalf of all the new officers and board members let me say thanks for allowing us the honor of serving you and the Georgia Poetry Society in the coming year. Thanks, also, to Steven Shields and his officers, board members, committee chairmen and members who have done such outstanding work for the society over the last two years. We are humbled to be following them and at the same time encouraged by the fine example they have set for us. We know we have some catching up to do, but you can rest assured we will all be working hard to do our very best for you and for our Georgia Poetry Society.

A word about goals. I've got three for us to work on now. Maybe there will be more later.

First, write some great poetry. Read good poetry, listen to good poetry, work hard to write great poetry. Everything else GPS and its members do is secondary to that primary purpose, so keep writing. Make your voice heard.

Second, **use and enjoy your membership** in the Georgia Poetry Society. It's not enough just to be a member, a name on the roll. I encourage you to enjoy being a

*Continued on Page 4, See **Self***



Dickinson

110TH GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY QUARTERLY MEETING

WHEN

July 15, 2006

TIME

09:30 a.m. – 03:30 p.m.

WHERE

**Coca-Cola Space
Science Center**
706 Front Avenue
Columbus, Georgia

WHY

*For the Love of Poetry
and Pure Enjoyment*



Tennyson

THE PREZ SEZ

By Steven Owen Shields

Composing a final President's column is an exercise in moderation, if nothing else. One veers terrifyingly between treating it like a Don Rickles floor show (*if there's anybody out there I haven't insulted this evening, I must not have done a good job! And if I did insult you, please don't take it personally!*) and a perspective once offered me over his half-moons by one of my former university dons ("*Never apologize. Never explain*").

A more useful model might be Dwight Eisenhower, who warned the public in his final speech about a nefarious and hitherto-then-unheard-of group he tagged "the military industrial complex." Whether this was mere paranoia or a harbinger of things to come has kept conspiracy buffs busy since.

What intrigues me as I conclude my term as President of

*Continued on Page 4, See **Shields***

Inside This Issue:

GPS Board Recognized	2
2005 Reach of Song	3
110 th Meeting Agenda; Plans for 111 th	3
Presidents' Columns, cont'd	4
NFSPS Winners	5
Poetry in the Schools	6
GPS Member News	7
GPS Member Poetry	8
Recognizing GPS Members	9
Poetry at Tech; Newsletter Name	10
GPS Contest Information	11
GPS Contest Information for Youth	12

APPRECIATION TO THE 2005-2006 GPS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Thank you to our outgoing Georgia Poetry Society (GPS) Officers and Board members for all you have done to make the Society a better organization that serves poets across the State of Georgia.

2005 - 2006 Georgia Poetry Society Board of Directors

Steven Owen Shields, President

Robert M. Giannetti, Vice-President

Sally Kaplan, Secretary

Terry Hensel, Treasurer

John K. Ottley, Jr., Board Member

Dorothy W. Worth, Board Member

Larry Hand, Board Member At-Large

Robert L. Lynn, Board Member At-Large and Editor-Elect

2005 - 2006 Georgia Poetry Society Projects and Committees

Jean Mahavier, Poetry in the Schools Project

Howard McHenry, Membership Committee

Emery Campbell, Parliamentarian

Welcome to our new 2006 - 2007 GPS Officers, Board members and Project Chairpersons.

Ron Self, President

Clela Reed, Vice-President

Mary Frances, Secretary

Terry Hensel, Treasurer

Steven Owen Shields, Board Member

Deuce Douglass, Contest Chairperson

Freddie O'Connor Riley, Webmaster

Keith Badowski, Board Member

Beverly Denmark, Board Member

Sally Kaplan, Board Member

Howard McHenry, Membership Committee

Linda Farmer Ames, Newsletter Editor

We continue to search for volunteers for the following positions: Historian and Membership Development Chairperson.

A big thanks goes to members of the Nominating Committee for their work: Bob Lynn, Herbert Denmark, John Ottley, Terry Hensel, and Steven Shields (ex-officio).

2005 THE REACH OF SONG TO BE UNVEILED

By Robert L. Lynn, Editor

The 2005 edition of **The Reach of Song** will be unveiled at the July 15 quarterly meeting. The three *Awards for Excellence* for member poems will be revealed, and the 48 members who had poems accepted for the anthology will be honored.

Also included will be the contest report for 2005 and copies of winning poems of youth and other competitions.

Copies of the new edition will be on sale for \$15 each, and pre-ordered copies will be delivered. Editor Robert L. Lynn announced that the deadline for member submissions of up to three poems for the 2006 edition will be on February 15, 2007. Send to Editor, The Reach of Song, P.O. Box 147, Duluth, GA 30096.

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY 110TH QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA

Saturday, July 15, 2006

Coca-Cola Space Science Center, 701 Front Avenue, Columbus, Georgia

- 09:30 - 10:00 a.m. Registration, coffee, and sign-up for member readings
- 10:10 - 10:05 a.m. Welcome by President Steven Shields
- 10:05 - 10:45 a.m. Member Readings
- 10:45 - 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:00 - 11:15 a.m. Featured Presentation: Deuce Douglass presents his chapbook, **Marshmallow Staircase**
- 11:15 - 11:30 a.m. Rivertown Poets Anthology: **A Community Speaks**, introduced by Linda Ames
- 11:30 - 11:45 a.m. 2005 Reach of Song, introduced by Robert Lynn
- 11:45 a.m. -12:00 Noon Instructions for Lunch; Reception for poets and book signings
- 12:00 Noon - 01:30 p.m. Lunch at home of Ron Self, 513 Broadway; (a short two-block walk **or** take the horse and carriage)
- 01:30 - 02:00 p.m. Introduction and Swearing In of New Board and Officers
- 02:00 - 03:00 p.m. Planetarium Show and Poetry Under the Stars
- 03:00 - 03:15 p.m. Closing Thoughts from new President, Ron Self; Adjournment
- 3:30 - 04:30 p.m. Meeting of the GPS Board

GPS TO VISIT GREAT AMERICAN POET'S HOME FOR 111TH QUARTERLY MEETING

Georgia Poetry Society members will hold their next quarterly meeting at the picturesque home of one of America's greatest poets. The Carl Sandburg lakeside home and goat farm in Flat Rock, North Carolina will be the site of the October 21 meeting, during the likely peak of the fall foliage season.

The Saturday program will feature a tour of the Sandburg home, the operating goat farm, videotapes, a Sandburg monologue by an area actor, a presentation by a Sandburg scholar, and a picnic on the National Park Service-managed site.

Flat Rock, a few miles east of Hendersonville, NC, is approximately three hours drive from downtown Atlanta and is 40 miles north of Greenville, SC. Members are urged to arrange car pools from their area to this unique and historic meeting.

For those who wish to spend Friday and/or Saturday nights in Flat Rock special rates have been arranged at the unique rustic Highland Lake Inn. Two and three-room hamlets (each room with a private bath) are available at \$100 to \$150 per room per night. A \$50 deposit is required. Because of the fall foliage season, these rooms will likely all be gone by August 1. Call 800-762-1376, ext. 8120 (Glenda Palmer) for reservations. Mention Georgia Poetry Society. Other Hendersonville/Flat Rock motels, rates and phone numbers are: Holiday Inn Express, \$107, 828-698-8899; Days Inn, \$93, 828-697-5899; and Red Roof Inn, \$99, 928-697-1223. For other details, contact Bob Lynn at 770-876-2904 or rlynn@adelphia.net

For those who find the above prices a bit steep, contact the Historic Hendersonville and Village of Flat Rock NC Visitors Information Center website at <http://www.historichendersonville.org/> (click on Accommodations) or call them at 1-800-828-4244 for a free travel planner. If you visit their website, you will find an array of other accommodations near within a short driving distance for half or more than half the price. You can also read more about all the attractions in and around the area, including Flat Rock and Carl Sandburg's home.

Self, *Continued from Page 1*

member, and the only way you can do that is to participate, to figure out some role you can fill in our organization. Attend the meetings if and when you can, read your poems at member readings and open mics, peruse the newsletter and the website, submit your news to our newsletter editor, enter the contests, say "yes" to Poetry In The Schools, submit your poems for The Reach of Song, be a part of the many programs, the many opportunities for service offered by the society, and don't wait to be asked. Whether you are homebound or on the go twenty-four hours a day there are ways you can be useful, ways you can enjoy your membership. If you have an idea, speak up. If you have a suggestion, speak up. If you have a concern, speak up. We've got snail mail, telephones, faxes and e-mail. Contact me or any board member. Let us know what you think needs doing and what you can do to help.

Third, share your membership. This is the GEORGIA Poetry Society. It is not an exclusive mutual admiration society. I know there are more poets in Georgia than we have in our organization. Spread the word, recruit new members, invite a friend to join.

We'll be putting out a new membership brochure for distribution throughout the state and working toward an online application to make it easier to become a member of GPS. We may also have a traveling road show of poets carrying the Society's message to new poetry venues and enlisting new members. Let's each make it our individual goal to share our membership and recruit at least one new member this year. We are members of the Georgia Poetry Society because we love poetry and the art of writing it. I urge you to use, enjoy, and share your membership. If you do, GPS will benefit, and, more importantly,

you may just become a better poet for doing it.

Ron Self
smrws@aol.com

Shields, *Continued from Page 1*

the Georgia Poetry Society are the many ways in which I have witnessed how power is gained, maintained and exercised in the world of contemporary poetry. As I have watched power struggled over, certain issues have appeared in sharp relief: Who is allowed to speak as a poet in our contemporary culture? What topics are allowed? What styles are not merely fashionable, but nodded over? By whom? Whose works are published? Read? Reviewed? Who is remembered? Who is funded? Who is ignored utterly, and why?

Let me pull the pin and toss a hasty grenade at that last one.

The late Judson Jerome once famously sneered that state poetry societies were "full of old ladies of both sexes". While I have been President, I have heard our own membership dismissively described of consisting of "blue-hairs and mouth-breathers". The prejudice against the elderly--and that is exactly what it is, friends--is very present and very real.

But why? What is it that contemporary culture finds so objectionable about the elderly voice, especially the elder voice finally starting out on its particular poetic journey after a lifetime of work and social obligation?

The usual flip answer is a mumble about the quality of the poem produced, as if chronological age somehow magically shortened the learning curve to shoot aspiring retiree poets straight from know-nothings to venerated sages in No Time Flat. This is, of course, actual tommyrot.

I would suggest instead that what is really at issue is the question of cultural values, which in many ways turns it into an ideological question. Is the conservatism that accompanies aging born of a sort of hardening of the mental arteries? Or is it wisdom born of experience and reflection?

If the latter, then it becomes more obvious why certain cultural groups would just as soon keep the elder population quiet, keep it powerless to speak. If allowed to speak, something resembling what used to be called "common sense" might begin operating in the land again, and various slighted and historically powerless groups might have to apply reason instead of raw emotion and intimidation to advance their particular social issue. Far easier instead to sneer, to try to keep these elders in their place, to try to shame them into thinking they have nothing to offer the world now that their days of consumptive zeal are behind them. Far easier to tell them no one cares, that their aging bodies are no longer beautiful, that their afflictions are best borne in silence and out of sight of those who truly rule the world. Far easier to talk out of both sides of the public poetic mouth, simultaneously decrying the lack of an audience for the poem while at the same time holding the exercise and appreciation of the poem by seniors up to abuse.

And if elders are complicit in their treatment, it may be because they do not know where to turn, or how to begin, or what to do.

Where do you turn? To groups like the Georgia Poetry Society, perhaps, which lie outside the academic and publishing power structure and therefore are unaccountable to it.

How to begin? First, you lean out your poetic window, as in *Network*, and yell that you're mad as hell and you're not going to take it

*Continued on Page 7, **Shields***

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES (NFSPS) HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

By Larry Hand and John Ottley

The Georgia Poetry Society is a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). NFSPS held their annual convention in San Antonio, Texas, from June 8 -- 11, 2006. Three GPS members, John Ottley, Terry Hensel and Larry Hand entered a number of the contests and had a fine showing in the awards.

Larry Hand:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1st Place: Music Award (Sonnet) (<i>Larry was most thrilled winning this one!</i>)▪ 1st Place: Dorman John Grace Memorial Award (Sonnet)▪ 3rd Place: Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs Award (any subject/form)▪ 3rd Place: Georgia Poetry Society Award (Keatsian Ode, Slant Rhyme)▪ 1st Honorable Mention: Winners Circle Award▪ 4th Honorable Mention: Morton D. Prouty and Elsie S. Prouty Memorial Award (Subject: Nature)▪ 7th Honorable Mention: William Stafford Memorial Award (any subject/form)▪ 7th Honorable Mention: Lighten Your Life Award (Humorous Subject)▪ Judge's Citation: Poets Roundtable of Arkansas Award (any subject/form)
Terry Hensel:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 2nd Honorable Mention: Louisiana State Poetry Society (Haiku Form)▪ 7th Honorable Mention: Poetry Society of Texas Award (any subject/form)▪ Judge's Citation: Utah State Poetry Society Award (any form, Subject: Heritage)▪ Judge's Citation: Alabama State Poetry Society Award (any form, Subject: Death By...)
John Ottley:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 3rd Honorable Mention: Morton D. Prouty Memorial Award (Subject: Nature)▪ 4th Honorable Mention: Columbine Poets of Colorado Award (any subject/ form)

John Ottley writes, *"A Kentuckian took first place. Fourteen Georgia poets entered the competitions with a total of 1275 poems. Four of the Georgia entrants were non-GPS members. We were dwarfed by 80 Texans who sent in 2,164 poems and took home the most cash prizes. Utah was close behind with 57 poets sending in 1,256 poems and racking up the most awards, including both cash prizes and honorable mentions. It is not a certainty that, had more GPS members entered with more poems, we would have done even better, but it is likely."*

Larry Hand states, *"The convention was definitely worthwhile...and fun watching state groups get their awards, with so much yelling and whatever going on. There was much mooing when the Texans won...and the eerie sound of loons could be heard when the poets of Minnesota got their honors. I wish I had at least taken a cowbell to ring when a Georgia poet got mentioned, but only the sound of polite applause could be heard. Maybe someday we can get enough Georgians to bring buzzers and imitate the sound of bees swarming a peach grove or something."*

"Seriously, one great mystery seems to linger. When poets can enter as many as 48 contests for only \$8, where the heck did all our wonderful Georgia poets go? We have fine poets from all over the state who could do well in these contests, but they obviously aren't entering. The Founder's Award (with its \$1500 prize) is an extra five dollars for each of up to four entries, so a poet could have fully entered all 49 eligible contests for only \$28. (Contest Number 50 is youth only.)"

"The rule of thumb is the 'any subject, any form' contests are packed with free verse entries, because everyone has something to throw in those. The best chance of winning is in the 'specific form and/or specific subject' contests, because a poet has to make a special effort to match the criteria. For example, the Music Award calls for a 'sonnet form' with a subject that addresses 'the spiritual impact of great music', and that scares away most (who write free verse)."

"You can get all the information you need at the following website: http://www.nfsps.com/poetry_contests.htm. Information on that site is usually updated in August for next year's contest, with the deadline ... around March 15, but many of the contests remain the same. If you don't yet have poems for the specific form, specific subject categories, then you should at least enter the any subject, any form contests. Sure, there were over 10,000 entries in this year's competition, but the main thing keeping Georgia poets from winning isn't a lack of talent; it's the lack of entries. If you don't enter, you can't win. Moreover, the Texans continue to moo, and the Minnesotans continue to loon (or whatever it is that a loon does to make that weird sound). Next year, it could be a Peach Poet taking home that \$1500 for the Founder's Award -- IF they just take the time to enter."

POETRY IN THE SCHOOLS

MANNINGHAM TRUST POETRY AWARDS. Congratulations to Michael Young, a seventh grade contestant from the McConnell Middle School in Loganville. He was the sole Georgia winner in this competition.

Previously winning First Place in the GPS youth contest for 6th thru 8th graders, he now has Fourth Place, an attractive certificate, and a check for \$35 in the Manningham Junior Division plus publication in the Manningham Trust Poetry Awards 2006 chapbook.

Michael will also receive five copies of the chapbook; his school receives a copy for its library.

Reported by Emery L. Campbell

VOLUNTEER POET TELLS WHAT IT IS LIKE

“Good morning. I am a story teller. I tell my stories in rhyme and meter, for I am a poet. I will share with you some of my stories (and) stories from other poets. I will ask that you share your stories. We will discuss various styles of poetry, and questions may be asked at any time.

“There is much beauty in the poems of a child. Their words are honest and direct; they describe their first knowledge of places and things that we (adults) have seen so often we no longer notice. Sometimes I can recall when my eyes were that clear. Their dreams and wishes, told in the words of a child, are delightful. The students and I frequently feel that the class is over too soon.

“We have an apprentice program. If you would like, you could go and do no more than just observe. However, have some of your poems with you. You may have something you would like to share, and if you would rather not read it yourself, I will read it for you. I started as an apprentice; halfway through the first class, I had to jump in. The kids know we do it because we really like it. If they see you smile, they will be glad you are there.

“I dare to daydream, and this one could come true. Ten, twenty, maybe thirty years from now, a newly elected president stands at the podium. ‘I thank you for making me President of the Georgia Poetry Society. But most of all I wish to thank Jean Mahavier and her gallant band. Without them, I might never have become a poet. Their reason and their reward were simply that they believed in us.’ Six or eight voices echoed, ‘Me, too.’”

*“Seeing is believing in the things you see.
Loving is believing in the ones you love.”*

~ **Thomas Hayes**, Volunteer ~

Volunteer poets who go to schools are dedicated; each wants to spread knowledge of poetry or its creation to young people. A local visit can take as little as two hours of your time and this is not an every-week or even every-month thing. If you can go only once a school year, that is fine. In some schools, we have several classes to work with, so some days a volunteer may spend an entire school day plus travel time. No one makes you do this; it is up to you how much time you want to spend.

The best way to connect with a school is personal contact: knowing a teacher or a parent can often get us in. I ask volunteers to try to contact a school in their area. Many of us are in the Atlanta area, but several are not and contacting a school near you means you can be active in the project. Wherever you live, there are schools; ask if they would like a poet to visit a class, or give me a contact at the school and I will gladly try to set up a visit. If a teacher wants you, please go! I will gladly give you ideas if you want, or try to provide a mentor(email, phone, or in person) so you are not alone.

We have an apprentice program; a new volunteer can simply observe a seasoned one. Often this leads to the newbie assisting in that first class visit.

I put no strings on the poets as to how they conduct a class; we are individuals with our own talents. Some read their own or others' poems and discuss them with the students; some have the class write a class poem with help. Some have each student write a few lines after talking about poetry. I do ask that no sex, religion, or violence be introduced; these subjects are against school policy.

Contact me if you think you want to try it; I will work with you.

Jean D. Mahavier
1632 Tamarack Trail
Decatur, GA 30033-1711
Telephone: (404) 633-3129
E-mail: jmaha@bellsouth.net

GPS MEMBERS' NEWS

Mildred Greear writes:

From late November through February 19, GPS member Mildred Greear and husband Philip co-chaired the White County Friends for Pakistani Earthquake Relief. Interestingly enough, the effort resulted in the formation of a "Reach Out" club at the local White County Intermediate School where two students helped with the relief project. Subsequently, a teacher asked the public for volunteers to assist the students as they got pen pals in foreign countries.

What resulted when Mildred joined was a poetry writing exercise where ten third graders wrote a poem for display in the Nature Park on school grounds. Mildred says that it was marvelous to experience what so few students meeting only thirty minutes a week can do. "*The guidance of their teacher, Mrs. Michelle Gunnen was phenomenal,*" Mildred says; the teacher agreed that the students will continue to love poetry and write (more of) it for themselves.

Subsequently, Mildred visited with eighth graders at White County Middle School where teachers were concluding their unit on poetry writing. Again, she was impressed with the quality of the work and the interactions of students, teachers and librarians.

Meanwhile, three adults who attended a weekly poetry class as part of a community outreach program at Nacoochee-Sautee Methodist Church are privately printing individual chapbooks. Being associated with motivated adults was a wonderful experience. Their achievements speak for themselves.

Hambidge Center at Clayton will feature Mildred on August 11 at a traditional August Saturday. The topic for discussion is "*Demystifying Poetry by Writing Your Own*". That program is open and free to the public.

CONDOLENCES

GPS member Barbara Ruth Sampson passed away in May at Blairsville, Georgia.

Her book of poems, Earth Is a Splendid Place was published in 2000 by Sparrowgrass Press, Sistersville, WV and reviewed at the April 2001, meeting of Georgia Poetry Society in Athens.

Mrs. Sampson was named National Senior Poet Laureate for 2004 by the Amy Kitchener Angels Without Wings Foundation. She was an English teacher for many years in North Georgia and Western North Carolina. At the time of her death, she was an associate editor of Hometown Memories, a publication expected out in 2006 through the University of NC Press. She also was to judge the 2006 Senior Poets Laureate Contest.

We express our sincerest condolences to Barbara's family and friends.

Whatever Of Living

I shall live my life as full as I may to
the very end of my sensate day,
greeting the dawn at the crest of the
hill, when all but a singing bird is
still;

I shall tumble in surf, wild and white
and breast the wind in its furious
might.

From deep in the heart of a troubled
child, I shall hope that my love can
earn a smile;

in memory I shall walk with my pet
again, sharing companionship that
ended in pain.

Once more I'll welcome the nighttime
rain, soft, soothing balm to a
wondering soul.

Whatever of living I've loved, I'll enfold
with winging heart and lightsome
feet--

Death, come when you may, but Life is
sweet.

Barbara Ruth Sampson
in Earth Is A Splendid Place
© 2000, Sparrowgrass Press

Shields, *Continued from Page 4*

any more. You deserve to be heard.

And then?

Then, you write a poem. You write a poem about your own vitality, about what an amazing thing it is to be your age, the celebration of your own physical love, the accumulated wisdom and desire of a life well-lived. You write your political poem refuting the insanity of the times. You write your summing up of your thoughts about the Great Questions. You hum as you write, and the morning is golden.

And then, you write another.

From Angie Burns, St. Simons Island, GA

Since I can no longer attend meetings in Atlanta, I started a poetry group in my church. It is called Christ Church Live Poets Society. We are currently struggling with sonnets:

*Our thoughts are murmured into
written verse,*

*Compelled are we to see our words in
print.*

*Perhaps this act of scribble is a curse,
For is it for ourselves or others sent?*

*Others, who simply take their lives in
stride,*

*Who never think to write or read a line,
And seem to be along just for the ride -
For golf, TV, or just a glass of wine,*

*So why are we devoted to this art?
Was it Erata's gift to us alone?*

*We do not know what sets us so apart
And makes us strive with words until
we groan.*

*Why should we have those bees within
our bonnets
That make us try so hard to write these
sonnets?*

Can anyone assist us, please?
Angie (Angiemama33@msn.com)

Emery Campbell has rocked the literary world yet again. Yep, his poem "*Sitting by a Pond on a Sunday Evening*" has won first prize of \$25 in Category 18 of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society's 2006 contest series and will be published in the PPS's 2006 prize poems book. Also, his poem "*Spring Sting*" has won a citation in Category 10 of the same series. Glory hallelujah!

Rosemary Mauldin wants to let everyone know that she continues to recover from her auto accident. She misses everyone.

Please send emails to Rosemary at her new email address: rosemarymauldin@bellsouth.net.

Ron Self's poem, "*Co-authors*", appears in the current issue of The Atlanta Review.

Out-going Vice President Robert Giannetti left Atlanta for a new home in upstate New York. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

William Henry Williams was awarded First Citation by the Pennsylvania Poetry Society for his poem, "*The Tree*".

Ira E. Harrison tells us that he has published a new book of poetry: Poetry & Prevention: A Little Ounce is Worth published by Xlibris 2006, following up last year's self-published book of poetry: B.A.A.D. (Beautiful African American Daughters).

Kristina Simms plans to collect and publish her poems into a book, using one of her photos for the cover illustration. She expects it will be in print by the Fall, 2006. She plans, as of this writing, to entitle it: A Second Spring.

SIPPING COFFEE – A BOOK OF POEMS

By B. Michele

A Book Review by Ethelene Dyer Jones

Her pen name is B. Michele. We know her best as Beverly Michele Denmark who has loved to write since she was a slip of a child seven years old. Her first book of poems, Sipping Coffee, arrived from the publisher in time for National Poetry Month, April, 2006. The twenty-nine poems in her chapbook are written in free-verse style and some in rhyme. All represent a heart overflowing with sincere feelings and keen observations. When I first read her book, I was touched by her honest and forthright manner of giving us a glimpse into her world. No pretense here. B. Michele tells about life as she has experienced it. A second and third reading reemphasized my first opinion of her book. We have in B. Michele a poet who tells it like it is.

She begins with her own Christian faith, and even though confessional and with an admission of having doubts, she shows how a sincere believer in the Lord Christ can work through lapses of faith to a strong stand in "*Marry You*," a poem in which she uses the biblical metaphor of the church as the bride of Christ, and an individual believer as His bride. The six poems in the "faith" series explore what most of us have felt on our spiritual journey. B. Michele has expressed her faith with unusual insight and wisdom.

She gives a poetic tribute in "*Daddy*," whose characteristics she greatly admires and emulates; and, in "*Mama*," she sees portions of herself mirrored. In "*Conversation with Grandma*" she is grateful for the memories of a loving woman who is "still alive in my heart."

In "*About the Author*," B. Michele tells us that "she is single but is praying that will change one day soon." Some of her poems explore feelings of love and rejection, hope and letting go, forgiveness and starting anew. The process she uses in these love poems is called catharsis, a purgation that brings about renewal or release by allowing the feelings to surface and then giving them expression. The reader can easily identify with B. Michele's poems for who among us has not felt similar bumpy roads to true love?

In "*Never Realized*" she expresses thanks to many who worked diligently to allow her and others the privilege to vote and to relieve the terror, not from some foreign power, but from people living in the same town.

In "*Everything Must Go*" she uses a well-promoted sale in a metaphorical and creative sense to get rid of "dead weights" so there can be room for "new clothes."

B. Michele is not afraid to be cryptic both in language and in subject. Follow her through "*Waiting For*" and "*Deal With It*" and you will feel a sense of pride in her ability to assize social situations and to find solutions.

I highly recommend Sipping Coffee. This first book of poems by a member of Georgia Poetry Society and the daughter of long-time-members and workers in the Society, Walter Herbert and Delores Denmark, is an excellent "coming of age" presentation of a gifted writer. Congratulations, Beverly Denmark! We look forward to more honest poems from your pensive mind and polished pen.

Sipping Coffee. 1st edition. By B. Michele. Denmark Books, P. O. Box 371123, Decatur, GA. © 2005. 30 pages. Cover illustration by Sandra Denmark. ISBN 1-891511-06-8. Cost: \$5.00, includes S&H. You may contact the author at sippingcoffee1973@yahoo.com.

RECOGNIZING GPS MEMBERS



Emery L. Campbell

Mr. Campbell writes poetry and short works of fiction and nonfiction. A book of a selection of his poems and translations from the French of poetry by classical French poets was published in June 2005. The volume, entitled **This**

Gardener's Impossible Dream, was nominated for the 2006 Georgia Author of the Year Award, and a poem from it received a nomination for a Pushcart prize.

His poetry also appears in the publications **Light, Midwest Poetry Review, Writers' International Forum, Poets' Forum, Parnassus Literary Journal, SpellBinder, Romantics Quarterly**, and others; in anthologies including **Reach of Song, Golden Words, Encore**, and **Where Sunbeams Dance**; in various other magazines and newsletters; and on the Internet in the **M. E. Stubbs Poetry Journal** at www.sonatapub.com, in **The Hyper Texts** at www.thehypertexts.org, and in the **Crown and Thistle** section of **Fables** at www.fables.org.

Mr. Campbell is a past vice president and long-time member of the Georgia Poetry Society; he also belongs to the Utah State Poetry Society, the Southeastern Writers Association, and Georgia Writers, Inc. For the past 12 years, he contributed a regular column on grammar and usage to the newsletter of the latter.

Born in 1927 in Monroe, Wisconsin, Mr. Campbell served as a naval aviator from 1945 to 1950. He subsequently graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1952 with a BA in French and spent the

following two years as a postgraduate student in France. From 1955 until his retirement in 1992, he was employed as an export sales executive. In this capacity, he resided in France, England, and Argentina, as well as in the United States, and traveled widely for business and pleasure.

Since early 1988 Mr. Campbell and his wife, Hettie, a native of the Netherlands, have lived in Lawrenceville, GA. The couple has two grown sons, both of whom reside in the Atlanta area.

Photo
Unavailable

Joyce A. Harris-Taylor Stokes

As an Algebra/Geometry teacher at Russell County High School in Seale, Alabama, Ms. Stokes states, "I have seen many changes in education and literature through the years."

With her mother, Ms. Stokes co-wrote three books: **Tales and Poems from Grandma Tempie** (2003), **Tales and Poems from Grandma Tempie - Angels** (2004), and **Tales and Poems from Grandma Tempie - Talents** (in publication).

In 2005, she won a grant from The SEARCH Foundation to edit the booklet **Talents** in Russell County (2006). She also volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House in Columbus, and serves as a member of TEAM-Math and President of Russell County Education Association.

Ms. Stokes is listed in **World's Who's Who of Women, Who's Who in the Southeast** and **Who's Who Among American High School Teachers**. She is currently working on a MPA at Columbus State University.

If you would like to participate in sharing a short biography of yourself, please send your information to GPS Newsletter Editor, Linda Ames at liam0439@yahoo.com or 4816 Saint Francis Avenue, Columbus GA 31904-6140.

GPS MEMBERSHIP

The following provides information regarding dues to join the Georgia Poetry Society.

1. \$30 annually for individual poets.
2. \$40 for families.
3. \$15 for students with current school photo ID.
4. \$300 for Lifetime Memberships.

Until our online membership activation feature is ready, please mail check or money order with your name and contact information to the Georgia Poetry Society, PO Box 2184, Columbus, GA 31902.

Thanks, and we look forward to having you join us.

POETRY AT TECH: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 2006-2007

▪ **Tuesday, September 26, 2006**

Georgia Tech's Ivan Allen College, The School of Literature, Communication, and Culture, and Thomas Lux, the Margaret T. and Henry C. Bourne, Jr. Chair in Poetry introduce Georgia Poets Martin Lammon, Cheryl Floyd Miller, and Tania Rochelle.

- The Clary Theatre in the Bill Moore Student Success Center,
- 4:30 p.m., FREE, Open to the Public, No Tickets or Reservations Required
- Book Sale and Signing to Follow the Reading

▪ **Wednesday, October 25, 2006**

Thomas Lux, the Margaret T. and Henry C. Bourne, Jr. Chair in Poetry, Georgia Tech's Ivan Allen College and the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture present the Fifth Annual Bourne Poetry Reading featuring Frank Bidart, Major Jackson, and Gregory Orr

- The LeCraw Auditorium in the College of Management in Technology Square, 800 West Peachtree St. (5th and West Peachtree)
- 7:00 p.m., FREE, Open to the Public, No Tickets or Reservations Required
- Parking available at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center; Parking Garage at 5th and Spring St.
- Book Sale and Signing to Follow the Reading

▪ **Friday, November 17, 2006**

Thomas Lux introduces Spoken Word/Slam Artists, M. Ayodele Heath, Bob Holman, M.L. Liebler, Patricia Smith, Kodac Harrison, and Regie Gibson

- The DEFOOR CENTER, 1710 Defoor Avenue
- 7:00 p.m., FREE, Open to the Public, No Tickets or Reservations Required
- Book Sale and Signing to Follow the Reading

▪ **Thursday, March 15, 2007**

Thomas Lux introduces **Emerging Poets**: Travis Denton, Ross Gay, and Pat Rosal

- The Clary Theatre in the Bill Moore Student Success Center
- 4:30 p.m., FREE, Open to the Public, No Tickets or Reservations Required
- A Book Sale and Signing to Follow the Reading

▪ **Thursday, April 19, 2007**

Thomas Lux, the Margaret T. and Henry C. Bourne, Jr. Chair in Poetry, Georgia Tech's Ivan Allen College and the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture introduce Van Jordan and David Kirby

- The Clary Theatre in the Bill Moore Student Success Center
- 7:00 p.m., FREE, Open to the Public, No Tickets or Reservations Required
- Book Sale and Signing to Follow the Reading

1. Clary Theatre Parking: Parking available at the Burge Parking Deck on North Avenue adjacent to the Alumni/Faculty House at 190 North Avenue.
2. The Defoor Centre: Go West at exit I-75 on Howell Mill. Turn Right onto Defoor Avenue.

*For information about Free Poetry Workshops in the community contact Ginger Murchison at 404.385.2760 or e-mail McEverWorkshops@aol.com. See the **POETRY at TECH** website at <http://www.poetry.gatech.edu/>*

CONTEST: NAME THE NEWSLETTER (RE-NAMING THE GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER)

We received a number of suggestions for re-naming the **Georgia Poetry Society Newsletter**. They are:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Best Words, Best Order | 9. Peach Poets News | 17. The Georgia Poetical |
| 2. Georgia Peach Poetical | 10. Peach State Poets | 18. The Peach Poet Gazette |
| 3. Georgia Pinings | 11. Poetry Power (or Poetry's Power) | 19. The Peach Poet Page |
| 4. Georgia Poetry News | 12. Poetry Under Georgia Skies | 20. The Peach Poetical |
| 5. Georgia Poets Gazette | 13. The Art of Words | 21. The Peach State Poet |
| 6. Georgian Verses | 14. The Fuzz Buzz | 22. The Pinings Page |
| 7. Painting That Speaks | 15. The Georgia Poet | 23. The Poet Gazette |
| 8. Peach Poet News | 16. The Georgia Poet Gazette | 24. The Poet Pinings |

So as not to influence anyone, names of submitters were omitted.
for your favorite one and send to Linda Ames, Newsletter Editor via email (liam0439@yahoo.com) or snail mail (4816 Saint Francis Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31904-6140). *Thanks! Linda*

2006-2007 GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY COMPETITION SCHEDULE

In 2006, all competitions of the Georgia Poetry Society (except Youth Contests) will be held simultaneously, with awards to be announced at a meeting in late fall or early winter. Entries will be accepted beginning September 1 and ending with postmarks of October 15, 2006. Results will be announced here and on the GPS website and in the Newsletter of the Georgia Poetry Society, with dates and information for the awards dinner.

THE LANGSTON HUGHES AWARD

Description: Celebrating 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.

- Requirements: One poem, at least 20 lines and no more than 60 lines. Any subject, any form. Written in the spirit of Hughes' poetry.
- Prizes (1st/2nd/3rd): \$75/ \$50/ \$25
- Entry fees: \$1 GPS members / \$ 2 non-members

BYRON HERBERT REECE INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Description: Honoring Georgia's beloved and 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.

- Requirements: Any subject, any form. A 40-line maximum length.
- Prizes (1st/2nd/3rd): \$75 / \$50 / \$25
- Entry fees: \$1 GPS members / \$ 2 non-members

FOUNDERS AWARD

Description: The 16th annual memorial competition honoring GPS founding President Edwin D. Vickers, and co-founder Charles J. Bruehler.

- Requirements: Any subject, any form. An 80-line maximum length.
- Prizes (1st/2nd/3rd): \$75 / \$50 / \$25
- Entry fees: \$1 GPS members / \$ 2 non-members

MNEMOSYNE AWARD

Description: Mnemosyne (nigh-MOHS-eh-nee) was an ancient Greek goddess, the Muse of Memory. This award is established in honor of Georgia Poetry Society members in memoriam whose service made valuable contributions to the Society. These include Thelma Ruth Hall, Katherine Ward, R. Riherd Greene, and Annette Rumph Peery.

- Requirements: Subjects are open, but themes of the celebration of life are welcome. Any form. A 20-line maximum length.
- Prizes (1st/2nd/3rd): \$75 / \$50 / \$25
- Entry fees: \$1 GPS members / \$ 2 non-members

THE EDGAR BOWERS AWARD

Description: Poetic achievement in the spirit of Georgia poet Edgar Bowers (1924-2000), whose compact and rigorous formalism defined the spirit of his work. His themes were themes of loss—of the past, of friends, of family, of humanity.

- Requirements: One poem, using rhyme and/or meter in generally recognized and accepted poetic forms (e.g., sonnets, sestinas, villanelles, etc.). Form must be identified on poem. Written in the spirit of Bowers' verse. 40-line maximum length.
- Prizes (1st/2nd/3rd): \$75 / \$50 / \$25
- Entry fees: \$1 GPS members / \$ 2 non-members

From: Georgia Poetry Society PO Box 2184 Columbus, GA 31902 Email: georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com URL: http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/	To:
---	------------

For comments regarding the newsletter, please contact the GPS Editor, Linda Ames at linda0493@yahoo.com or 4816 Saint Francis Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31904-6140

2006-2007 GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY COMPETITION SCHEDULE FOR YOUTH

THE MARGERY CARLSON AND MAREL BROWN PRIZES FOR YOUTH POETRY

Description: 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.

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)

Entry fees: There are no entry fees for this contest.

Restrictions: Poems must be accompanied by entry form. 32-line maximum. 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.

Format of submission: To guide submissions, please adhere to these format considerations:

1. Type or word-process on standard 8.5x11 white paper. Grades 1-5 may submit hand-written entries; ensure legibility.
2. Do not include illustrations.
3. For readability by the judges, select a standard font such as Times-Roman rather than some unconventional font (such as script fonts or Gothic). Fonts no larger than 14-point.
4. One poem per page. Poems must be in English.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Entry form below must accompany each poem and must be complete. Form must be signed both by the student submitter and the sponsoring teacher.
8. *No emailed or disk entries accepted.* Mail entries to:
 Emery Campbell
 Youth Contests Coordinator, Georgia Poetry Society
 369 Cottage Way SW
 Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4523

Deadline: All entries must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2007.

*Judges: The Georgia Poetry Society will select qualified judges who receive the copies without author identification for judging. Winners are announced at the April 2007 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 poem 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.*