

Georgia Poetry Society

Susan Luther - Morning Workshop Leader

A native of Nebraska, Susan Luther has degrees in literature from LSU, UA Huntsville, and Vanderbilt University. She has lectured, taught, and given workshops and readings in numerous public, private, and academic venues in England and the U.S., including UAH. A former member of the editorial board of POEM and of the founding board of directors of the Alabama Writers' Forum, she has won various writing and teaching awards, served on grant award panels for the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and as a judge for (continued)



Kathryn Hinds - Afternoon Workshop Leader

Kathryn Hinds grew up near Rochester, New York, then moved to New York City to attend Barnard College. She did graduate work in (continued)

In This Issue

October Workshop Leaders	1
Schedule	3
Lunch Reservations	4
Directions/Map	4
Open Letter John Ottley, Jr.	5
Member News	6
Fall Contest & Poetry News	8
Membership Renewals	12

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

Contact Information

www.georgiapoetrysociety.org

gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org

678-242-0153

2013 Officers:

Sandy Hokanson, President

Ann Gillespie, V. President

Francie Smith-Roundtree,
Secretary

Roseanna Almae, Treasurer

2013 Board:

Robert Lynn

Terry Hensel

Bill Early

John Ottley, Jr.

Steven Shields

Susan Luther

many poetry competitions, including, years ago, the Byron Herbert Reece Award. Her publications include two chapbooks and a full-length book of poetry, academic and miscellaneous prose, and some 200 poems in a wide variety of periodicals and anthologies. Recent poetry publications include *Broken Bridge Review*, *J Journal*, *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, *The Christian Century*, and poems in several *Limestone Dust Poetry Festival* anthologies. The most recent of her anthology publications is *Something More Solid Than Earth*, a literary art publication by the Coweeta Poets, a women's writing group that originated from a series of week-long workshops Susan Luther led on a porch

Kathryn Hinds

Comparative Literature and Medieval Studies at the City University of New York, but instead of continuing immediately into academia, she became an editorial assistant at Macmillan Children's Books. This led to a twenty-year career as a freelance writer and editor, during the course of which she moved from New York to Atlanta to Decatur, and finally settled in Dahlonega. In 2011 she returned to academia as an English instructor at the University of North Georgia, where she teaches composition and British Literature I.

Kathryn's published works include a co-authored book on Celtic mythology and more than fifty nonfiction titles for young adults. This year has seen the release of her six-book series *Creatures of Fantasy* as well as her first poetry collection, *Candle, Thread, and Flute*. Her poetry has appeared in *The Lyric*, *Canary*, *Goblin Fruit*, *14 by 14*, and other journals, and is forthcoming in *Measure*. She has had recent short stories in *Luna Station Quarterly* and the anthology *Dreams of Steam IV*. As an editor or copy editor, Kathryn has worked on numerous books for children and young adults, including winners of the Newbery Honor and the National Book Award for Young People's Literature. Her own current work in progress is a young adult novel in free verse, tentatively titled *Arise, Fair Sun*.

October 19th Quarterly Meeting Schedule

- 8:30-9:00 Coffee and mingling
- 9:00-9:15 President's Welcome and announcements
- 9:15-9:30 Open Mic
- 9:30-9:45 Break
- 9:45-10:45 Susan Luther Workshop - "Tightropes and Silks"
- 11:00-11:15 Break
- 11:15-11:30 Katie Rose Dionne - teen poet, Finalist in *River of Words* competition
- 11:30-11:45 Report on NFSPS workshop – Sandy Hokanson
- 11:45-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 Kathryn Hinds workshop – Writing a Young Adult Free Verse Novel
- 2:00-2:15 Break
- 2:15-2:30 Terry Hensel, member poet
- 2:30-2:45 Open Mic
- 2:45-3:00 Raffle/Closing Comments
- 3:00-4:00 Board Meeting

Lunch Reservations for October Meeting

We will be eating in the cafeteria at UNG, so no reservations will be needed.

Directions to University of North Georgia

From Atlanta: Go north to the end of 400.

Turn left onto Rt. 19 & 60 towards Dahlonega.

Go 5.2 miles. (Don't turn in at the large brick entrance for the university.)

Turn left just beyond the brick entrance onto S. Church St. It is before a speed bump in the road.

Then take the first left and park at Newton Oakes Center (8B on map below). The building is well marked in large letters.

Enter through the door marked Mike Cottrell College of Business.

We are meeting in Room 019 on your right.

From the square in Dahlonega:

Exit the square on Rt. 19 & 60.

Pass the Smith House and Starbucks Coffee and take your first (S. Church St.) right immediately after going over the speed bump.

Then take the first left and park at Newton Oakes Center (8B on map below). The building is well marked in large letters.

Enter through the door marked Mike Cottrell College of Business.

We are meeting in Room 019 on your right.

** An online map of the campus can be found here:

www.ung.edu/visitors/_uploads/files/UNG-Parking-Dah.pdf

An Open Letter to Members of the Georgia Poetry Society

By the time you read this, you will have received your ballot for nominees to serve as officers and directors of our Georgia Poetry Society for the coming year.

I had the privilege of serving on the Nominating Committee. That duty reminded me of three things:

1. No one who is called upon to serve has the time to do so. In order to accept nomination, you have to *make time* to do so.
2. Thanks in part to the high tech environment in which we live, *everyone is busy*. Just being busy is not reason enough to decline to serve.
3. Each of us has withdrawn benefits from our society, including, but not limited to:
 - Entering poetry contests and sometimes winning prizes.
 - Tips from speakers at our quarterly meetings.
 - Ideas from our anthology, *The Reach of Song*.
 - Inspiration from our GPS chapbooks.
 - Ways to improve our work from critiques and workshops.
 - Our automatic membership in the National Federation of Poetry Societies.

As when we withdraw from our bank accounts, there comes a time to make a deposit. That deposit is your willingness to take part in running our society when you are called upon to do so.

Our society is 100% dependent on volunteers with the exception of a few administrative tasks which are outsourced. We have no paid staff.

I willingly served two terms as your president, seven terms as your treasurer, and numerous tenures on your Board of Directors. Hopefully, our society benefited. I know that I did.

I want to urge you to consider your obligation when, in about two years, your Nominating Committee again will seek candidates for officers and directors.

Yes, we all pay our dues, but that is not enough. We must remain responsive to our duty to serve.

Sincerely,

John Ottley, Jr.

Member News

Jill Jennings has a poem, “Strangler Fig,” in the current issue of *Atlanta Review*! Recently, Radio Kinver in England picked up her two books and selected the poem, “Heaven Has Fourteen Windows,” which was read on the air to a weekly podcast of several thousand poetry lovers in Kinver, England. This was unsolicited. Someone heard about Jill and recommended her work to the producers of the radio program, www.RadioKinver.co.uk.

Jill has finished two more full-length books of poetry and is sending them out to other poets for comments. She is also teaching creative writing (prose) to adults in Maui in a workshop or one-on-one basis. www.jilljennings.org

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Paul Samuels has published a new book, *Expressions of Life*. The book is 94 pages, soft cover, poems covering 40 years, divided into five sections: Questions I’ve asked, Thoughts of God, Reflections on Family and Friends, Problems and Freedoms, Yours, Mine and Others, Expressions of Love and friendship.

Also included are greeting cards published in the college bookstore market with an invitation to freely use them to communicate to your friends and family.

Published by CreateSpace, available on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, and www.paulsamuels.com

**

Lynn Pedersen has three poems forthcoming, “Eve Paints the Apple Tree” and “Begin” in the Fall and Winter issues of *Cider Press Review*, and “After Seven Months, Alaskans Begin to Bury Their Dead” in *Comstock Review*. She recently began blogging as a way to explore poetry and ecopoetry. Her blog can be found at www.lynnpedersen.wordpress.com

Member News

Bob Lynn talked about "Breakaway Poetry" to the Greensboro Writers Guild on Sept. 10, centered on his newest book, "Cancer Is So Limited and Other Poems of Faith by Robert L. Lynn." Kathy Wright is coordinator of the Greensboro group. Lynn has similar presentations set in Gainesville with Bill Early, in Columbus with Ron Self, and in Southwest Atlanta with Ira Harrison.

**

Lynn Farmer and Bob Lynn attended a "Tribute to Seamus Heaney" at Emory University on Sept. 10, a few days after the Nobel Prize-Winning Irish poet died. Heaney visited Emory on many occasions, and some of his papers are deposited in the university's literary repository in Woodruff Library.

**

Ron Self, past GPS president, will be featured poet at the 2013 Johns Creek Poetry Festival on Saturday, November 16 at Northeast Regional Library, 9560 Spruill Road, Johns Creek, GA 30022. He will read from his new book of poetry, RICH MAN'S SON. The 6th annual festival will be staged by the Johns Creek Poetry Group and will include an open mic, a children's program, a book fair of poetry books, and a luncheon.

**

Karen Paul Holmes has three poems forthcoming in *POEM Literary Magazine* and two in *Skive Magazine* (Australia). She also read at the Decatur Book Festival on Aug 31, participated in the play "Hidden Away: The Library At Night" (where she read her poetry), and will read at the Pine Lake Fest on Oct 6 (all these events in Atlanta Metro area).

Other Poetry News

Call for Submissions

FutureCycle Press is now reading poetry and flash fiction written in the English language for books, chapbooks, and anthologies to be published globally in both print-on-demand and Kindle ebook formats. We read year-round, simultaneous submissions are okay, and we try to respond within three months or less. Detailed guidelines and to submit: www.futurecycle.submittable.com. Catalog: www.futurecycle.org. (Tip: Amazon's "Look Inside" feature is a great free way to get a feel for what we like. Also see our Good Works and Archives tabs and Free Kindle Saturdays promotions.)

Good Works Projects

In 2013, FutureCycle Press introduced its Good Works projects, thematic anthologies with all proceeds donated to a related worthy cause. Previously published work is considered if all English-language print and digital rights have reverted to the author and a credit to the original publisher is provided.

Malala: Poems for Malala Yousafzai. Poems in honor, and in the spirit, of the young Pakistani girl shot on October 9, 2012, by the Taliban for bravely advocating for the education of girls in her region. Malala was runner-up for *Time's* 2012 Person of the Year and has been nominated for a Nobel prize. We will publish this anthology to commemorate Malala Day, November 10, as declared by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. Reading Fee: None. Deadline: August 1.

Homeland: Writings About Homelessness. Poetry and flash fiction on the theme of homelessness with an emphasis on understanding. Reading Fee: None. Deadline: None.

Our Place: Writings About the Earth. Poetry and flash fiction dealing with themes of the environment, climate change, humans in the context of our ecosystems, etc. Reading Fee: None. Deadline: None.

Metamorphosis: Writings About Aging. Poetry and flash fiction on aging: the good, the bad, the ugly, the transcendent. Reading Fee: None. Deadline: None.

Books and Chapbooks

Our tastes in poetry are eclectic; we ask only that you send fresh, well-honed work that hangs together well as a book. Our flash fiction line presents quick reads that can be serious or light-hearted, irreverent or quirky, fantastic or futuristic, or just plain fun.

Include an acknowledgments page and bio with your submission. Reading Fee: \$15.
Deadline: None.

Selected Poems Series

Our *Selected Poems* series will feature contemporary poets with a substantial body of work to their credit. Reading Fee: \$15. Deadline: None.

Chapbook Contest Update from Janice Moore

1. Deadline is Nov. 15, 2013.
2. Entry fee is \$20. The check should be made out to Georgia Poetry Society.
3. Two copies of the chapbook are required, one with the author's name and address, the other without any identifying information.
4. The length is 20 pages of poems plus a title page with Submission to the 2014 Chapbook Contest typed under the title and another page for a table of contents.
5. The chapbook should be held together with a clip.
6. Chapbooks should be submitted to:
Janice Moore
PO Box 144
Young Harris, GA 30582

Fall Contest Deadlines - Nov. 15 (see web site for more information)

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.

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.

Founders Award

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

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. Riherd Greene, and Annette Rumph Peery. Mnemosyne (nigh-MOHS-eh-nee) was an ancient Greek goddess, the Muse of Memory.

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.

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.

Poems can be submitted to:

Lyn Hopper, Fall Contest Chairman
263 Lucy Lane
Dahlonega, GA 30533

Membership Renewals

October is the month Georgia Poetry Society members are invited to renew their memberships, so that when the new fiscal year begins on January 1, members are paid up and poised to participate.

A perfect time to renew is the fall quarterly meeting of GPS in October in Dahlonega.

Teachers will have a special incentive to join. For the first time a 50% discount (\$15) will apply for 2014 membership. To qualify, the teacher must currently be a teacher of English or language arts in a public or private school in Georgia. If you know a teacher who qualifies, call them and ask them to take advantage of the new provision, or even volunteer to pay their membership for the first year.

You may pay your membership dues by mail or online. If you prefer to pay online, go to www.georgiapoetrysociety.org and enter your credit card information. You may renew by U.S. mail by downloading the membership renewal form (existing members) using the PDF form link on the web site.

The regular membership for the year is \$30.

Family membership is \$40.

A teacher or student or military membership for the year is \$15.

Life membership is \$500.

Our snail-mail address is 640 Sweet Gum Forest Lane, Alpharetta, GA 30005.

Upcoming Meetings

Jan 18 - Athens, The Classic Center, *Chad Davidson, Greg Frazier*

April 26 - Columbus, National Infantry Museum

Future Newsletters

To include content in upcoming newsletters please contact:

gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org

or send member news to Lynn Pedersen at:

lynn.pedersen.poetry@gmail.com