

Georgia Poetry Society

April 26 Spring Meeting Columbus, GA - Workshop Co-Leaders “Battle Lines”

Melissa Dickson’s collections include *Cameo* and *Sweet Aegis, Medusa Poems*. Her work can be found in *Shenandoah*, *North American Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Cumberland River Review*, *Literary Mama*, and *Southern Women’s Review*. Melissa holds an MFA in Visual Arts from the School of Visual Arts and an MFA in poetry from Converse College. She is a 2014 Pushcart Nominee for both *Shenandoah* and *Cumberland River Review*.



Carey Scott Wilkerson is a poet and dramatist. His collections include *Threading Stone*, and *Ars Minotaurica*. His play *Seven Dreams of Falling* was produced in 2013 at the Elephant Studio Theatre in Los Angeles. He is winner of a Lillian E. Smith Writers Fellowship, has been Visiting Writer at Clayton State University, the University of South Alabama, and Guest Artist at the University of Mississippi. He holds an MFA from Queens University of Charlotte, and teaches at Columbus State University.



In This Issue

April Workshop Leaders	1
Schedule	2
Lunch Reservations	3
Directions/Map	4
Poetry News	6
Reach of Song/Book Order	10
Poem/Memorium for Charles Cook	11
Upcoming Meeting	12

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

Contact Information

www.georgiapoetrysociety.org
gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org

678-242-0153

2014 Officers:

Ira E. Harrison, President
Ann Gillespie, V. President
DuAnne Kaiser, Secretary
Jeff Jones, Treasurer

2014 Board:

Sandy Hokanson
Lynn Farmer
Henrietta Andrews
John K. Ottley, Jr.
Lynn Pedersen

Battle Lines Workshop

This workshop presentation will explore the ideas of crisis, confrontation, and conflict as they relate to poetry. We will consider the relationship between war and poetry, thinking in terms of war both as a subject and as a metaphor for the human drama. We'll open a discussion about the redemptive power of poetry as a response to war, but we won't be afraid to ask whether "war poetry" risks trivializing the loss of life in the name of art. We don't know how battle lines are drawn, but we hope to move toward a deeper sense of how they are written.

April 26th Quarterly Meeting Schedule

9:00 – 9:30	Coffee and mingling
9:30 – 9:40	Welcome and announcements
9:40 – 10:00	Member readings
10:00 – 10:30	Famous Columbus Poets You Never Heard of But Should Have – Barbara Lipe, presenter
10:30 – 10:40	Break
10:40 – 11:10	Out of War: Poetry (Poetry inspired by war and war-time experiences.)
11:10 – 11:40	Sandy Hokanson, Winner of Charles Dickson Chapbook Competition
11:40 – 12:00	Youth Contest Winners readings
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 1:45	Workshop: Battle Lines – led by Melissa Dickson and Scott Wilkerson
1:45 – 2:00	Member readings
2:00 – 2:15	Raffle
2:15 – 2:30	Closing Remarks – Museum tours on your own –
2:30	Board Meeting

Upcoming Events

July 19 – Summer Quarterly Meeting, Spelman College, Atlanta

----- (mail with your check) -----

April 26th Lunch Reservations

MENU ONE: Slow Roasted Smoked Turkey with Sliced Swiss Cheese, Lettuce and Tomato on a Croissant with Baked Potato Chips, Granny Smith Apple and a Chocolate Chip Cookie

(Please list all names for this choice.)

_____, _____,

MENU TWO: Veggie Ciabatta – Sundried Tomato Ciabatta Bread layered with White Bean Hummus, Arugula, Field Greens, Goat Cheese, Basil Marinated Tomatoes, Balsamic Glaze, Sliced Onions and Mushrooms served with Baked Potato Chips, Granny Smith Apple and a Chocolate Chip Cookie

(Please list all names for this choice.) _____,

_____, _____

Cost: \$14.00 per person _____ Total number of lunches reserved.

Make your check out to: Georgia Poetry Society and **mail no later than April 17** to:

Jeff Jones
3176 Alenes Drive
Gainesville, GA 30506

Directions to The National Infantry Museum

– Take I-185 South from Columbus to exit 1B. Drive west on US 27/280/431 (Victory Drive) for about a mile, then turn left at the light onto Fort Benning Blvd. The museum entrance is on the right.

– GPS Directions: The museum address is 1775 Legacy Way, Columbus GA 31903. If you are using an older model GPS an alternative address is 2870 S. Lumpkin Rd., Columbus, Georgia, 31903.

Hampton Inn Hotel (for those staying Friday April 25th)

A block of 12 rooms has been reserved at the price of \$109 plus tax for the GPS members at the Hampton Inn Columbus/South-Ft. Benning, located at the entrance of the Infantry Museum for Friday night, April 25th. **Rooms must be booked by the morning of April 4 to get the special rate.**

Hampton Inn Columbus/South-Ft. Benning
2870 S. Lumpkin Rd.
Columbus, GA 31903
1-706-660-5550

To book a room you can call the hotel directly and just let the agent know that you are with the Georgia Poetry Society group. You can also book rooms online at www.columbussouthfortbenning.hamptoninn.com. If booking online you want to use the group code GPS.

Directions to Hampton Inn:

From Hartsfield-Jackson Airport take I-85 S for 52 miles to Exit 21 toward Columbus. Continue on I-185S for 50 miles to Exit 1B Victory Drive. Continue for 1.5 miles, then turn left at the red light onto Fort Benning Road. Continue .6 miles destination on your right.

Poetry News

Proposed Italy Workshop with Chad Davidson and Gregory Fraser – June 2015

A note from Sandy Hokanson—After our wonderful workshop with Chad and Gregory in Athens, I got an email from Chad with a proposal for a week-long workshop in Spoleto Italy for a year from this June, with he and Greg as teachers. I am very excited about this, so let me know if you might be interested. First come, first served. Here is the proposed plan in Chad Davidson's words:

“It struck me last night that Georgia Poetry Society members might be interested in a side project of mine. Two years ago, I founded our university's first study abroad program in Italy. We are stationed in Spoleto, a stunning hilltop town in Umbria, just 80 miles north of Rome. We go every year, from roughly mid-May to mid-June. Students LOVE it.

The side project I imagine is a week-long writing seminar or workshop at the tail end of our trip. Our students leave, and writing seminar students arrive. We'd spend a week in Spoleto, and Greg and I would teach the courses. You'd have plenty of time to explore the city on your own, and we'd also build into the itinerary some "field trips" to noteworthy towns nearby. (Assisi, for example--seat of the Franciscan order and home of St. Francis--is just 20 minutes away.) Anyone wishing to stay longer and travel around a bit can easily do so (at their own cost, obviously).

I worked up the cost of such a program last year but didn't really receive enough interest from the Carrollton writers group. With your greater membership, however, this might be viable. I'd say we'd need roughly 8-10 participants to make the program pay for itself. We're talking an all-inclusive trip, too. The fees would cover all meals, all transportation, all lodging, all tuition, everything but the ice cream. No Italian language skills necessary. That's what I do. The food is amazing, the sites are unimaginably breathtaking, and you know what Greg and I are capable of in a classroom.

Spoleto does not have a university. That means you would not stay in dorms or eat cafeteria food. No. All apartments are privately owned, in the city center (inside the old medieval walls) and within easy walking distance of classrooms (held in a renaissance palazzo, which in turn sits on a Roman bath complex--the mosaics of which are still visible through the glass floor), and our partnering restaurants and cafes serve delicious, home-cooked meals. In fact our dinner place is open JUST for us at night.”

The other bit of info that might interest some of your members and contacts is that Greg and I will also have our colleague Maggie Mitchell with us, a notable fiction writer with a new novel out with Holt next year. (She's already sold close to \$100,000 in foreign rights to it.) If any members are interested in prose workshops, we'd have her at our disposal. That, and Greg and I have a few contacts in Rome, who, I think, could be persuaded to come up and share their expertise in writing with you. All in all, you'd have multiple insights regarding your writing. I imagine it a very close, intimate sort of program--a few group meetings in the morning where we discuss particular strategies--much like we did for you in Athens and Carrollton--break for lunch, and then workshops and individual conferences with each of you in the afternoon regarding your submission. That would be the schedule for four of the days. the other few we can reserve for field trips to notable destinations nearby. Those could be based on the predilections and desires of the group. More intrepid folks may want to tackle Rome for a day, while others may prefer to sit back, write, and take in the Umbrian calm and beauty. We can tailor those to the group. I have a great deal of experience guiding people around Italy, and where my expertise stops my colleagues in Spoleto take over. In short, you'd be in excellent hands.

The one small issue that is impossible to change: Spoleto is a town built on the side of a rather steep hill. Indeed most Umbrian towns are, and Spoleto is by no means one of the steepest. Still, it's difficult to walk around the town and not change elevation considerably. There are steps lurking around every corner, and cobblestones can get slick in the rain (particularly at steep angles). You do not have to be a paragon of health to handle it, but I can't in my right mind encourage those with health problems or walking difficulties to join. Otherwise, Spoleto is one of the most charming towns I have ever been in Italy, and I've seen quite a few. Do a search online. You'll see what I mean.

It would depend on how many participants there are, but I think we could do the entire thing, one full week with plane fare, shuttles to and from the airport, all accommodations, food, and workshops for four days (plus a few really beautiful excursions) for \$3000. If there were, say, 10 participants, that figure would drop.

That's the figure I came up with last year. You could use it as a ballpark. If there is real interest, I'd go back and be positive about the number. Seems that would work, though. Keep in mind that the plane fare alone is upwards of \$1600 at that time of year."

Thanks for considering,
Chad

Poetry News

A Note from Sara Gipson on the **Arkansas Writers' Conference**

The 70th Annual Arkansas Writers' Conference will be held Friday, June 6 to Saturday, June 7 at the Pulaski Technical College South Campus in the Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management Institute, Little Rock, Arkansas. I have attached a link so you can begin your contest submissions and read about the fabulous opportunities and educational programs presented by truly inspirational speakers.

I hope to see you and your friends at the 2014 AWC. For more information see the AWC Website: www.arkansaswritersconference.org

Call for Submissions

Indiana State Poetry Society invites members of GPS to submit poems to the 30 contests listed on their website www.isfpc.org. Poems must be submitted between July 1 and September 1, 2014. More information on entry fees and contest specifics online.

Alabama State Poetry Society Annual John and Miriam Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition

Info is available through their Muse Messenger newsletter or online at Alabamapoets.org. Winner receives \$100 and 25 copies of his/her winning chapbook. Poems may be previously published if poet retains all rights. Deadline 5/31/2014.

The Bettie Sellers Poetry Contest, sponsored by the Byron Herbert Reece Society. Deadline is May 2. More information: <http://byronherbertreecesociety.wordpress.com/2014/01/13/bettie-sellers-poetry-contest-2014/>

Negative Capability Press, the Southeast's oldest independent small publisher, invites submissions for its **Georgia Poetry Anthology**. Poems must relate (poet's birth or residency, theme or imagery) to Georgia. New or previously published work welcome. Please send .doc or .docx files using 12-point Times New Roman. Send one attachment with up to three poems including your name, contact information, and a brief bio. Send a second blind attachment with only the poems. **Deadline: April 10, 2014.**

Gantheditor@gmail.com

Great River Shakespeare Festival/Maria W. Faust 2014 Sonnet Contest

Ted Haaland, a poet, sponsors the Great River Shakespeare Festival's sonnet contest in Wisconsin. Full rules/guidelines can be found on the site GRSF.org/SONNET. The Contest entry fee is \$5.00 for up to 3 sonnets. Enclose the entry fee check made out to: Ted Haaland, with a memo of "Maria W. Faust Fund." Entries must be post-marked no later than July 1st, addressed to:

GRSF Maria W. Faust Sonnet contest
c/o Emilio DeGrazia
211 West Wabasha Street
Winona, MN 55987

An Opportunity from Poetry Contests for a Cause

Hello writers. I will be doing a chapbook that will be an anthology of nature poems, "Mother Nature's Trail," and it will benefit a wildlife organization. For the first page of the book, I would like to include a poem that goes along with the title of the book. So, here is my poetry challenge to all you poets:

Write a poem titled "Mother Nature's Trail." The poem must reflect the title and can be up to 20 lines. The winning poem will be published on the first page of the book and the poet will receive \$20 and a free copy of the book. Email submissions to stacyrsavage@yahoo.com. Deadline is March 15, 2014. The poet whose work is chosen will be contacted by March 30. Check back soon on the Facebook page, Poetry Contests for a Cause: <https://www.facebook.com/poetrycontestsforacause>, for the call for submissions for the rest of the book.

Member News

Lynn Pedersen's poem "A Catalog of What We're Not Meant to See" was featured on the online journal *Heron Tree's* website the week of February 16, 2014. It can be read here: <http://herontree.com/pedersen2/>

Also, "Begin" was published by Cider Press Review in January 2014:
<http://ciderpressreview.com/cpr-volume-16-1/begin/#.UxuLKV5gOuI>

Diana Anhalt, a member of Side Door Poets in Atlanta, wants to let readers know that her third chapbook, *Lives of Straw*, has just been released by Finishing Line Press. As with her second chapbook, *Second Skin*, (Future Cycle Press) this one also deals with Mexico where she resided since 1950. Just three years ago she moved to Atlanta in order to be closer to family. For information about *Lives of Straw* go to:

https://finishinglinepress.com/index.php?cPath=2&sort=2a&filter_id=1562

Karen Holmes is pleased to announce that she has a book of poetry, *Untying the Knot*, forthcoming from Kelsay Books in July 2014. She is also teaching the following two classes if any GPS members would like to participate:

Express Yourself Through Poetry

March 22, Saturday afternoon, 1 - 4 p.m. \$35

Writers Circle, Hayesville, NC (border of Georgia and NC)

Some of us are better than others when it comes to expressing emotion. Yet the feeling in the poem is what connects it to the reader. In this class we'll explore how to free yourself by expressing yourself in third person or through a persona. We'll look at examples of heartfelt poems that do not cross the dangerous bridge of sentimentality.

We'll also learn how humor can help communicate serious emotions -- like anger, grief, regret -- in poems that are both salty and sweet, that touch readers' emotional cores while also making them smile. Class will include an optional prompt ahead of time, so you can bring a poem of your own to share.

For more info and to register, <http://www.glendacouncilbeall.blogspot.com/>

Your Write Time

Date: Friday, Aug 1 - Sunday, Aug 3, 2014, \$334 (optional room and board is extra)

John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, NC

Itching to write, but can't find time? Or do you need a jumpstart to get you going? Give yourself the gift of a weekend devoted to writing. For prose (fiction, non-fiction, memoir, blogging) or poetry. All levels welcome.

Here's the link to the Folk School class and registration information:

https://classes.folkschool.org/class_details.aspx?pk=16869

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY ORDER FORM			
		QTY	PRICE
ANTHOLOGIES	<i>NEW The Reach of Song 2014</i>	_____ x	\$ 15.00 = _____
	Available for pickup in July		
	Copy for local library/school	_____ x	\$ 15.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2013</i> limited qty	_____ x	\$ 13.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2012</i>	_____ x	\$ 10.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2011</i>	_____ x	\$ 7.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2010</i>	_____ x	\$ 5.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2009</i>	_____ x	\$ 3.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2008</i> limited qty	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2006-07</i>	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____
<i>The Reach of Song 2001-02</i>	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____	
CHAPBOOKS	<i>Under a Hundred (2011)</i> limited qty Ron Self; Francis Alix; Mildred Greear	_____ x	\$ 8.00 = _____
	<i>The Rare, Persistent Light</i> Chapbook by Lynn Farmer, 2012	_____ x	\$ 5.00 = _____
	<i>More Than Atoms</i> Chapbook by Kandice Cook, 2010	_____ x	\$ 3.00 = _____
	<i>String Theory</i> Chapbook by Alice Teeter, 2007	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____
	TOTALS	_____	_____ (Includes Shipping)
CONTACT INFORMATION			
NAME _____			
ADDRESS _____			
CITY, STATE ZIP _____			
PHONE _____			
EMAIL _____			
LIBRARY DONATION (circle appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Will Deliver Myself (no address needed) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Please Mail to this address:			
NAME OF LIBRARY _____			
ADDRESS _____			
CITY, STATE ZIP _____			
Please address checks and money orders to Georgia Poetry Society and mail along with this form to: Karen Pickell, <i>The Reach of Song</i> 10760 S. Kimball Bridge Xing Alpharetta, GA 30022			
Pre-orders of new anthology will be filled in August			

A Note from LaVerne Cook on the Passing of Charles Cook

LaVerne Cook sends the following letter to Bob Lynn and the GPS:

January 21, 2014

Dear Bob,

It is with great sadness that I am writing to tell you that Charles entered his Heavenly home on January 7th. His “borrowed” heart was working perfectly, but medicine that had to be taken to prevent rejection had its toll on his kidneys. Dialysis failed to work and the cause of death was renal failure.

While going through papers he had in a drawer next to his chair, I found the following poems I would like to share with you. I always said that I took the man out of the mountains, but never took the mountains out of the man. “Last Request” proves he loved his mountain home and heritage.

Soon after his heart transplant he wrote what he would like in his final rites. Included in those notes was the poem that the minister sang to the tune of “Hymn of Promise,” which is in the Methodist Hymnal.

He thoroughly enjoyed being in the Georgia Poetry Society and coming to meetings to be with the many friends made. He appreciated your encouragement in his writing and looked forward to seeing you at each meeting.

Cordially,
LaVerne Cook

3542 Jones Road
Macon, GA 31216

Last Request

Paint me a mountain one more time
With rainbows on its crest;
Purple and blue with radiant hue
Will be my last request.

And when I'm gone, sing a song
Of peace and harmony;
Then I shall journey through the stars
Where Jesus waits for me.

He'll take my hand and understand
I seek His holy light;
His gentle touch will comfort much
At such a lovely sight.

Though I've been ill, I'll find a thrill
Where rainbows always glow;
No more will I feel earthly pain
And tears no longer flow.

Paint me a mountain in my soul
With sunset's bold display;
Then I'll ascent to golden shores
To spend eternal day.

Charles W. Cook

2010

Upcoming Meetings

July 19 - Spelman College,
Atlanta

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