

Georgia Poetry Society

October 25 Meeting Brenau University, Gainesville, Georgia

Maureen Ryan Griffin,

an award-winning poetry and nonfiction writer, is our morning workshop leader for “The Fine Art of Cooking Up a Poem.” She has taught writing for more than twenty years through Queens

University and Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina; the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina; Chautauqua Institution in Western New York, and a wide variety of other venues.



Karen Paul Holmes, a GPS member and a freelance writer, poet and teacher, will lead a workshop titled, “Showing Emotion in Your Poetry without Sounding Like a Hallmark Card.” Karen will also be reading from her book, *Untying the Knot*. Karen hosts a poetry workshop in Atlanta and a writers’ night out in the Blue Ridge Mountains.
(continued page 3)



In This Issue

October Workshop Leaders	1
Schedule	2
Lunch Reservations	4
Directions/Map	4
Poetry News	5
Reach of Song/Book Order	9
Upcoming Meeting	10

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

Fall Quarterly Meeting Schedule – October 25, 2014 – Brenau University

9:00 - 9:30 Coffee and Mingling

9:30 - 9:45 President's Welcome and Announcements

9:45 - 10:00 Open Mic

10:00 - 11:00 Workshop: "The Fine Art of Cooking Up a Poem" led by Maureen Ryan Griffin.

Maureen will show us that everything we need to know about writing outstanding poetry is embedded in the poems of the poets we love.

11:00 - 11:10 Break

11:10 - 11:40 Reading by Laurence Holden

11:40 - 11:55 Mildred Greer –Tribute to former Poet Laureate Ted Kooser

11:55 - 1:15 Lunch in Brenau Dining Room - \$9.20

1:15 - 1:30 National Federation of State Poetry Societies Winners

1:30 - 2:30 Workshop: "Showing Emotion in Your Poetry without Sounding Like a Hallmark Card" led by Karen Holmes

The feeling in the poem is what connects it to the reader. Yet, how do you show emotion without stepping into the dangerous waters of sentimentality? In this workshop we'll look at some examples of wonderfully emotional poems. You'll also be given a prompt to help you write one.

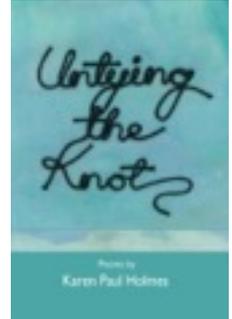
2:30 - 2:45 Open Mic

2:45 - 3:00 Raffle and Closing Comments

4:00 Board Meeting

Karen Paul Holmes (continued)

Her full-length poetry collection, *Untying the Knot* (Aldrich Press, 2014), is a story of loss and healing, written “with grace, humor, self-awareness and without a dollop of self-pity” (according to Poet Thomas Lux). Karen’s publishing credits also include *Poetry East*, *Atlanta Review*, *POEM*, *The Sow’s Ear Poetry Review*, and the *Southern Poetry Anthology Vol 5: Georgia* (Texas Review Press).



Laurence Holden (Guest Reader)

Laurence Holden, a writer and visual artist, lives in the North Georgia Mountains, drawing his images and poems from his connection to the land there. He believes that image and word are just two natural dialects for the same thing—bearing witness to the Creation. He believes that if we can restore our understanding of the land, we might save ourselves too in these perilous times.

His poems have appeared in three issues of the Chrysalis Reader (Lenses on Reality, Your Turn, and It’s a Deal: Dynamic Transactions), as well as in Appalachian Heritage, 2011, four recent issues of The Reach of Song: The Poetry Anthology of the Georgia Poetry Society, and The Written River 2012. His work received awards of excellence from the Georgia Poetry Society, an honorable mention from the Byron Herbert Reece Society and from the Porter Fleming Award. His paintings have appeared in over 20 solo exhibits, and are in over 200 public, private, and corporate collections. His art and writing may be viewed at

<http://artistspath.info/>

<http://www.laurenceholden.info/>

<https://laurence-holden.squarespace.com/>

In addition to his poetry in print, Laurence gives frequent readings and leads hikes in the North Georgia mountains, reading poems along the way and often inviting participants to join him in creating a group poem. He also joins his poems with his visual work, creating limited edition books, essays, and “poem movies.” To see some examples of his poem movies check out Everything We Know, What’s Needed, and A River of Words and Images (in collaboration with photographer Honor Woodard).

Lunch

We will be eating lunch in the Brenau Dining Room which is about two blocks from the Burd Center. Lunch is \$9.20 and we will pay individually as we enter the dining room.

Directions to the Burd Center at Brenau University

If using GPS, please use this address for best results:

429 Academy Street
Gainesville, GA 30501

If coming from Atlanta via Interstate 985, take Exit 22 and turn left at the end of the ramp. Go approximately 1.5 miles to the 9th traffic light and turn right onto Academy St. The Burd Center will be on your left about a block down the street. You may park in any of the parking lots on either side of the street. Our meeting is in the Banks Recital Hall to the right as you enter Burd Center.

If coming south from Clayton, GA area on Rt. 23 that becomes Interstate 985, take Exit 22 and turn left at the end of the ramp. Go approximately 1.5 miles to the 8th light and turn right onto Academy St. The Burd Center will be on your left about a block down the street. You may park in any of the parking lots on either side of the street. Our meeting is in the Banks Recital Hall to the right as you enter Burd Center.

If coming south on Rt. 60 from Dahlonega area, you will be on Thompson Bridge Rd., which becomes Green Street. Use the left lane on Green Street and watch for the Post Office on the left. When you pass the Post Office, Green Street becomes E. E. Butler Street. Stay in the left lane. (Academy St. is the first left but left turns aren't allowed.) Go one more block to Brenau Ave. and turn left. Watch for parking lot on your left which connects Brenau Ave. with Academy Street. You will be able to see the Burd Center from the parking lot between these two streets. Our meeting room is in the Banks Recital Hall to the right when you enter Burd Center.

(continued page 5)

Directions (continued)

If coming south on Rt. 129 from Cleveland, GA area, don't take the bypass when 129 goes left onto Limestone Parkway outside Gainesville. Stay straight on Rt. 11 and follow it until it makes a slight left at a traffic light onto Green Street. Use the left lane on Green St. and watch for the Post Office on the left. When you pass the Post Office, Green St. becomes E. E. Butler St. Stay in the left lane. (Academy St. is the first left, but left turns aren't allowed.) Go one more block to Brenau Ave. and turn left. Watch for parking lot on your left which connects Brenau Ave. with Academy Street. You will be able to see the Burd Center from the parking lot between these two streets. Our meeting room is in the Banks Recital Hall to the right when you enter Burd Center.

Poetry News

Two GPS volunteer positions have been filled:

ROS Editor - Milford Greene of Atlanta, GA

STROPHEs Reporter - Lucinda Clark of Martinez, GA

DuAnne Kaiser is still looking for judges for Reach of Song.

GPS still needs a replacement for Robert Lynn as Membership Chairman: the Membership Chairman contacts members who have not renewed yet (this is primarily done via an email blast that the webmaster sends out) and reaches out to visitors at GPS quarterly meetings to encourage them to become members.

Any volunteers or suggestions are appreciated.

Membership Renewals

It is time! Either pay online or download the Membership Renewal Form and mail it with your check to:

Dale Hokanson
5965 Overleaf Terrace
Cumming, GA 30040

Poetry News

A Remembrance of Byron Herbert Reece (1917 - 1958)

While in North Georgia for the October GPS meeting, GPS members may also want to note that the Byron Herbert Reece farm is just south of Blairsville. (The Bettie Sellers Poetry Contest, sponsored by the Byron Herbert Reece Society, has a deadline in May of each year.) Reece taught at Young Harris College in Georgia and is known for five volumes of poetry and two novels. His life was cut short at the age of 40 by depression and illness.

GPS member Homer Overstreet had the unique experience of taking an English literature class with Byron Herbert Reece, and he shares some of his remembrances.

ENGLISH LIT WITH BYRON HERBERT REECE

Mr. Reece walks into the classroom. He pulls the class roll out of his coat pocket, looks it over, and puts it back. His skin fits loosely over his skeleton; not much flesh between skin and skeleton. He would blend in with the mountain men sitting around at the gas station just off campus. He is a mountain man, a farmer and a poet of some note. His brown Chevrolet is parked just outside of the Administration building and our classroom is in the basement. It is a good car but has never been polished. The brown Harris Tweed sport coat must be the only coat he owns. The white shirt, tie, coat, and slacks, hang on his tall frame. He does not look well. He has only been out of the hospital for a few months. He picks up the big red English Literature book, flips pages until he finds his place. Today he is talking about the English ballad, one of his favorite subjects. He talks without notes for the rest of the class, gives the homework assignment and dismisses the class. Few students ask questions. We sat and listened. He seldom called on students. For the life of me I do not remember much about his lectures, except that I enjoyed them and the class seemed to end too soon. This was 1957 and my second year at Young Harris College in the mountains of northeast Georgia. It was a two year college at that time.

By Homer Overstreet, '57
H_overstreet@bellsouth.net 770-985-2556

Find information about Reece here: <http://byronherbertreecesociety.wordpress.com/>

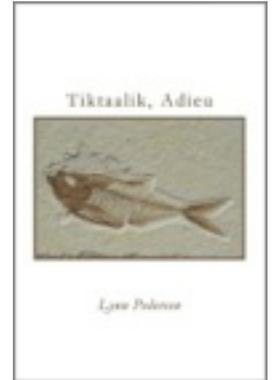
Member News

Lynn Pedersen's chapbook, *Tiktaalik, Adieu*, is available for pre-orders from Finishing Line Press:

https://finishinglinepress.com/product_info.php?products_id=2179&osCsid=aojnr1kv395meososemd64knc4

Pre-orders influence and determine print run, so if you would like to reserve a copy of the chapbook the press will be taking orders until Oct. 18, 2014. Release date is November 28, 2014.

Poet Nance Van Winckel says, "Science looms large and lives well in *Tiktaalik, Adieu*. Pedersen's lovely poems speak for, and to, our ever evolving, rapidly changing natural world, wherein the human animal seeks peace, or simply survival, from "resting place to resting place."



Remembering GPS Co-Founder JoAnn Adkins in Athens, GA on Nov. 16th, 2014 (a message from Leara Rhodes)

JoAnn and I, along with Ed Vickers, were the founding officers of the Georgia Poetry Society in 1979. To remember JoAnn Adkins, I am hosting a house party at my house in Athens, Georgia. She and I gave so many of these at her home in Atlanta where writers, fiction and poetry, would share their work. I would like to invite members of the Georgia Poetry Society to the house party to remember JoAnn and her love of poetry on November 16 at 5:00 p.m. Please contact me and I will be happy to give directions.

Sincerely, Leara Rhodes

ldrhodes@uga.edu

Senior Poets Laureate Competition

The September 2014 edition of *The Diploemat* at www.amykitchenerfdn.org contains a list of winners of the 2014 Senior Poets Laureate poetry competition, and rules for the new contest to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. To enter, you need not be in the military or have served in the armed forces. Open to American writers 50 and over. Feel free to share this info with other writers who might be interested in submitting prose and/or poetry.

- Submitted by Wanda Sue Parrott

Fall Poetry Contests

The deadline is approaching for GPS fall poetry contests. Check the GPS website for guidelines and have your work in by November 15, 2014 to be considered.

Spaces Still Available for the GPS Italy Trip 2015

**Italy Summer Writing Seminar
Castello di Postignano, Umbria, Italy
June 14-23, 2015**

Drs. Chad Davidson, Gregory Fraser, and Joshua Masters



- 10 days of writing workshops, lectures, individual conferences, and more
- Guided tours of the nearby picturesque towns of Spoleto and Norcia
- Accommodations that combine Old World history with modern luxury (www.castellodipostignano.it)
- Authentic regional cuisine, all inclusive (three meals per day)

(continued on page 10)

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY ORDER FORM

	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
PREORDER The Reach of Song 2014 (available in July)	_____	x \$15.00 =	_____
Copy for local library/school	_____	x \$15.00 =	_____
The Reach of Song 2013 <i>limited qty</i>	_____	x \$13.00 =	_____
The Reach of Song 2012	_____	x \$10.00 =	_____
The Reach of Song 2011	_____	x \$ 7.00 =	_____
The Reach of Song 2010	_____	x \$ 5.00 =	_____
The Reach of Song 2009	_____	x \$ 3.00 =	_____
The Reach of Song 2008 <i>limited qty,</i> 2006-07, or 2001-02	_____		_____
Indicate year requested: _____	_____	x \$ 2.00 =	_____
Under a Hundred (2011) <i>limited qty</i> Ron Self; Francis Alix; Mildred Greear	_____	x \$ 8.00 =	_____
South of the Ordinary (2014) Sandy Hokanson	_____	x \$ 10.00 =	_____
The Rare, Persistent Light (2012) Lynn Farmer	_____	x \$ 5.00 =	_____
More Than Atoms (2010) Kandice Cook	_____	x \$ 3.00 =	_____
String Theory (2007) Alice Teeter	_____	x \$ 2.00 =	_____
TOTALS	_____		_____
			(includes shipping)

CONTACT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

LIBRARY DONATION (check one) **Will Deliver Myself** ____ **Mail To Address Below** ____

LIBRARY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Make out checks & money orders to **Georgia Poetry Society** and mail along with this form to:

Wanda Reagan
2492 Gum Creek Rd.
Oxford, GA 30054

For questions about ordering, please call Wanda Reagan at 404-295-6198.

Italy Trip (continued)

- Airfare and ground transportation, all inclusive
- Cultural events such as wine tastings, olive oil samplings, and so on
- Special outings designed for spouses and friends not participating in workshops
- Participant fee (all inclusive): \$4350; guest fee (all inclusive): \$3950

Total number of travelers is limited to 20.

Checks payable to: MDF Enterprises, LLC
438 N Lakeshore Dr
Carrollton, GA 30117

Address questions to:
Dr. Chad Davidson (davidson@westga.edu)
Dr. Gregory Fraser (gfraser@westga.edu)

New Officers Chosen for 2015

The following slate was approved with a 40 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 2 blank ballots.

President – Ira E. Harrison* - Atlanta
Vice President – Michael Diebert - Decatur
Treasurer – Jeff Jones** - Gainsville
Secretary – DuAnne Kaiser* - Sautee Nacoochee
Board Members at Large:
Sandy Hokanson* - Cumming
Lynn Farmer* - Decatur
Ann Gillespie - Cleveland
Terry Hensel - Alpharetta
Lyn Hopper - Dahlonega

*2nd year of a 2-year term, **2nd year of a 5-year term

Upcoming Meetings

January 24, location TBA

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