

Georgia Poetry Society

July 18th Meeting at Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia

Opal Moore is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program at Spelman College. She is the author of *Lot's Daughters*, a collection of poems. Her current project, in poems, is *Negative Capability*. Recent critical essays on contemporary African American poets include "Possessing the Secret of Metaphor: Alice Walker's Poetics of Self Recovery," published in *Alice Walker: Critical Insights* (Salem Press), and "Redefining the Art of Poetry," in *The Cambridge History of African American Literature* (Cambridge University Press).



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Barry Marks is a Birmingham attorney and former president of the Alabama State Poetry Society. His chapbook *There is Nothing Oppressive as a Good Man* won the 2003 John and Miriam Morris Chapbook Competition. He is also the author of the collections *Possible Crocodiles, Sounding* (a finalist for the 2010 Eric Hoffer Award), and *Dividing by Zero*, an interweaving of poems and narratives inspired by the Talmud.



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GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

Contact Information

www.georgiapoetrysociety.org

gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org

978-766-5174

2015 Officers:

Ira E. Harrison, President

Michael Diebert, V. President

DuAnne Kaiser, Secretary

Jeff Jones, Treasurer

2015 Board:

Sandy Hokanson

Lynn Farmer

Terry Hensel

Lyn Hopper

Ann Gillespie

Summer 2015 Meeting Schedule **Spelman College, Atlanta: The Suites Private Dining Room**

- 9:00-9:30: Coffee and mingling
- 9:30-9:45: Welcome and announcements
- 9:45-10:15: *The Reach of Song* 2015 unveiling—Milford Greene, editor
- 10:15-10:30: Morning open mic—those appearing in Members section of *RoS* are encouraged to read
- 10:30-10:45: Break
- 10:45-11:45: Opal Moore presentation
- 11:45-1:00: Lunch in The Suites cafeteria (\$7)
- 1:00-2:00: Barry Marks presentation
- 2:00-2:15: Italy GPS Workshop report
- 2:15-2:30: Afternoon open mic
- 2:30-2:45: Raffle & closing remarks
- 2:45-3:45: Board meeting

Opal Moore presentation: "Sushi My Watermelon: Genre Bending Toward a Creative Space"

This talk will shape as a meditation on the poem "Sushi My Watermelon." The poem speculates on the ways that race confounds culture (think Cullen, "Yet Do I Marvel") and speculates on the challenges inherent in proposing creative writing in genre (black) spaces, especially in an age of classroom-to-job rhetoric, status management and STEM panic.

Barry Marks presentation: "The Rules of Engagement: Making Your Poetry Engage Your Reader"

We will discuss how good poets attract readers, involve them in the poem, and cause them to feel a part of the poem. Poets will be invited to review their own poetry or their favorite poems in terms of how the works engage readers, or could better engage readers. **Please bring one or two of your own poems or your favorite poems.**

Lunch Details

Lunch will be in The Suites cafeteria. Approximately \$7.00. No prior reservations or payment needed.

Spelman Campus Map



Directions to Spelman, Atlanta

For those using GPS, the following address will bring you directly to our entrance:
440 Westview Dr. S.W., Atlanta 30310

From I-75/85 North and South

Take I-20 West and exit (#55B) at Lee Street. Turn right onto Lee Street and continue through the next traffic light (Westview Drive). You will see a large parking lot on the right-hand side. Turn right into the first driveway and you will approach the gates of Spelman College.

From I-20 East

Exit (#55A) at Lowery Blvd. Cross Lowery Blvd. and continue on Oak Street to the next traffic light. Turn left onto Lee Street and cross the bridge over I-20 and continue through the next two traffic lights. You will see a large parking lot on the right-hand side. Turn right into the first driveway and you will approach the gates of Spelman College.

From I-20 West

Exit (#55B) at Lee Street. Turn right onto Lee Street and continue through the next traffic light (Westview Drive). You will see a large parking lot on the right-hand side. Turn right into the first driveway and you will approach the gates of Spelman College.

From Downtown Atlanta

Take Peachtree Street south to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and turn right. Continue on M.L. King Jr. Drive to Northside and turn left. Continue on Northside through next three traffic lights (passing Burger King on the right). Turn right at the fourth traffic light (Greensferry Avenue). Continue on Greensferry through the stop sign. Turn left into the gate of Spelman College.

Parking

There are public safety booths located at both gates of the College. Upon your arrival, the public safety officer(s) will inform you of where to park and give other directions and instructions as needed. Park in the parking deck, and exit the deck on the second floor at the south side (this is opposite of where you enter the deck). All-day parking is \$3. The Beverly Daniel Tatum Suites are located next to the deck to your right.

On the Spelman campus map, the parking deck is #1 and The Suites are #25, both on the right side. To clarify, our meeting is in the Private Dining Room. Lunch is in the cafeteria in the same building.

Member News

Laurence Holden has a poem, "Only the River Now" appearing in the June issue of *Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel* 2015. He was been invited to read this poem at the June 6th launch of *Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel: Volume 18, The Dead* with the [Southern Appalachian Writers Collaborative](#) Summer Gathering/ Reading at Appalshop's 29th annual [Seedtime on the Cumberland](#) in Whitesburg, Kentucky, celebrating Appalachian people, music, arts and culture. The poetry reading aired June 6th at 12 noon on [WMMT-FM 88.7](#)

He shares that "Only the River Now" was inspired by my nearby river, the Chattooga, the surrounding mountain community, and the way things pass here. It is the only poem I've ever written that comes close to being a story. After I had written it, I put it away in a drawer very unsure about its "narrative arc," or even what that really meant. Several writers told me it was very important to have this arc. So, months later, I had an opportunity to ask my dear poet friend Mildred Greear, who does write ballads, which are stories, what a story does have to have. She said, "It only has to be true!" Without her saying that, this poem would never have seen the light of day. So, of course, I've dedicated the poem to her."

Laurence has an illustrated poem "This Line Drawn" in the current online issue of [Eyedrum Periodically Issue 7](#).

Note there are only 20 days left to register for Laurence's workshop: "[Drawing From Our Own True Nature - July 20 - 24](#)" in the North Georgia Mountains. The deadline to register is June 20th.

GPS member **Barbara Lipe** shares a writing opportunity:

Chattahoochee Valley Writers is sponsoring a one-day workshop on August 8, 2015. The cost is only \$10. We hope some of you can join us!

Chattahoochee Valley Writers Retreat

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Columbus Public Library, Meeting Room B
3000 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia

Presenter: David Johnson

Professor Emeritis Columbus State University
Nationally published poet and fiction author

Program: Discovering the Undiscovered Self: Writing from the Imagination You Might Not Know You Have

More information at www.chattwriters.org

Interested? Please email chattwriter@gmail.com with the subject: "Writer's Retreat." Provide your name, address, telephone number and email address in the email, and indicate you wish to be included.

Member News (continued)

GPS President Ira E. Harrison shares news of several recent honors and appearances:

Ira is an executive committee member of the Friends' Council of the AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library. He was a featured author of "The March Continues: Civil Rights and More" program sponsored by the Woodruff Library on April 19, 2015.

He was a Special Presenter at the April 23, 2015 meeting of Kappa Boulé, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Ira was also honored as the "Eldest Alumnus in Reunion" on May 15, 2015 at the annual gathering of the Morehouse Alumni Association. Ira was given a certificate recognizing his 60 years of exemplary service and dedication to Morehouse College.

Congratulations, Ira!

Ronald Boggs sends along information about the **John's Creek Poetry Group**, which will meet Saturday, June 20th from 10:15 AM -12:15 PM at Northeast/Spruill Oaks Library, 9560 Spruill Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30022. It is *Atlanta Review* Day! Meet the poets behind *Atlanta Review*, editors Dan Veach and Lynn Alexander. www.altantareview.com.

Dan Veach, founder and editor of *Atlanta Review*, is author of *Elephant Water*, winner of the 2013 Georgia Author of the Year Award for poetry. His work has been awarded the Willis Barnstone Translation Prize. He is editor and co-translator of *Flowers of Flame*, the first anthology of wartime Iraqi poetry and winner of an Independent Publisher Book Award. Dan was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Writers Association in 2008. He has also translated Anglo-Saxon poems, stories, spells and riddles in *Beowulf and Beyond*, and ancient Chinese poetry in *Wang River Poems of Wang Wei and Pei Ti*.

Dan plays clarinet and bass clarinet in the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra and the Callanwolde Concert Band. He is the composer of two symphonies, and other works that have been performed by orchestra, concert band and chamber ensembles.

Lynn Alexander is managing editor of the *Atlanta Review* and is former editor of *Poetry Atlanta*. She is author of two chapbooks, *Hanging Clothes at Midnight* and *Man Done Gone* (June 2014, Finishing Line Press). Currently completing a memoir, *The Indelicate Flower*, she tutors English and serves on the Pine Lake City Council.

Member News (continued)

Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Contest and Conference

Contest

September 1, 2015, is the deadline for both the short story and poetry contests sponsored by the Chattahoochee Valley Writers.

Conference

Registration for the September 26, 2015 Chattahoochee Valley Writers' conference in Columbus, Georgia is available now. This is a full-day conference with workshop sessions for multiple genres and topics—poetry, fiction, screenwriting and editing. Poetry workshops will be led by Rupert Fike and Alice Friman. Cost is \$50 for the day with discounts for military, seniors and students. Box lunch extra. Details of the workshops and forms are online.

More info www.chattwriters.org

Poetry in the Schools Update

Paul Samuels encourages all GPS members to let their local schools know we have poets available during their poetry or creative writing week. Poets in the Schools has not received an abundance of requests from schools for programs, but we do respond to those requests we do get.

Saul Torres visited Duluth Adventist Christian School (DACs), prepping them for the Fall Poetry Festival Youth participation.

Paul Samuels visited The Kings Academy in Woodstock on March 27th, the last Friday before their spring break. These are homeschool high school freshmen who attend twice a week at the academy. Two classes of 20 students (co-ed) were very receptive and participated well.

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY ORDER FORM			
		QTY	PRICE
ANTHOLOGIES	<i>NEW The Reach of Song 2015</i> Available for pickup in July Copy for local library/school	_____ x	\$ 15.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2014</i>	_____ x	\$ 13.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2013</i>	_____ x	\$ 10.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2012</i>	_____ x	\$ 7.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2011</i>	_____ x	\$ 5.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2010</i>	_____ x	\$ 3.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2009</i>	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____
CHAPBOOKS	<i>NEW South of the Ordinary (2014)</i> by Sandy Hokanson	_____ x	\$ 10.00 = _____
	<i>The Rare, Persistent Light (2012)</i> by Lynn Farmer	_____ x	\$ 5.00 = _____
	<i>Under a Hundred (2011)</i> Ron Self; Francis Alix; Mildred Greear	_____ x	\$ 5.00 = _____
	<i>More Than Atoms (2010)</i> by Kandice Cook	_____ x	\$ 3.00 = _____
	<i>String Theory (2007)</i> by Alice Teeter	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____
	TOTALS	_____	_____
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 _____			
Make checks and money orders to Georgia Poetry Society and mail along with this form to: Wanda Reagan 2492 Gum Creek Road Oxford, GA 30054			
For questions about ordering, call Wanda Reagan at 404-295-6198.			
Orders will be filled in August			

Mid-South Poetry Festival

The 58th Annual Mid-South Poetry Festival will take place Saturday, October 3, 2015 in Memphis, Tennessee. There are numerous poetry contests and a workshop led by Michael Porter. Postmark deadline to register is Saturday, August 22, 2015.

More information is here: <http://www.poetrysocietytn.org>

Upcoming Meetings

October - 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