

# Georgia Poetry Society

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## July 15th Meeting at Perimeter College, Georgia State University, Covington, GA

Danielle Hanson received her MFA from Arizona State University and her undergraduate degree



from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She is the author of *Ambushing Water* (Brick Road Poetry Press, 2017) and serves as poetry editor for Doubleback Books and associate editor for Loose Change Magazine. Previously, Danielle was

poetry editor for Hayden's Ferry Review and managing editor/assistant editor of Carriage House Review. Her work has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Rosebud*, *The Cortland Review*, *Willow Springs*, *Blackbird*, and the *Poets Against the War Anthology*. She is the 2016 recipient of the Vi Gale Award from *Hubbub Magazine*.

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### GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

#### Contact Information

[www.georgiapoetrysociety.org](http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org)

[gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org](mailto:gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org)

404-323-3711

#### 2017 Officers:

Michael Diebert, President

Ronald Boggs, V. President

Trish Percival, Secretary

Lyn Hopper, Treasurer

#### 2017 Board:

Ira Harrison

Steven Shields

John Ottley

Wanda Reagan

Henrietta Andrews

**GPS Summer 2017 Meeting Schedule**  
**Perimeter College, GSU—Newton Campus, Covington**

9:00-9:30: Coffee, pastries, mingling

9:30-9:40: Welcome, announcements, updates

9:40-10:00: Morning open mic

10:00-10:30: Reach of Song 2017: Candy Gustavson, editor

10:30-10:45: Break

10:45-11:45: Presentation: Danielle Hanson

11:45-1:00: Lunch

1:00-1:30: Member reading: Ron Self, winner of 2015 Dickson chapbook contest

1:30-2:00: Reading by Danielle Hanson

2:00-2:20: Afternoon open mic

2:20-2:30: Closing remarks

2:40: Board meeting

## Lunch Details

Lunch Provided by Jason's Deli

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

Menu One:           \$8.19  
Roasted turkey sandwich on multigrain wheat bread, chips, and chocolate chip cookie  
Please list all names for this choice: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

Menu Two:           \$8.19  
Chicken salad (w/ almonds and pineapple) sandwich on country white bread, fruit, and chocolate chip cookie  
Please list all names for this choice: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

Menu Three:         \$8.44  
Spinach veggie wrap, salsa, chips, and chocolate chip cookie  
Please list all names for this choice: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total number of lunches you are reserving**

Make your check out to Georgia Poetry Society and mail no later than July 8 to:

Lyn Hopper, 263 Lucy Lane, Dahlonega, GA 30533.

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**Directions to Perimeter College, Georgia State  
Newton Campus  
239 Cedar Lane  
Covington, GA 30014**

Note: If you use GPS, it may direct you to make an immediate right after you turn right onto highway 11. Do not do this. Instead, drive down highway 11 about 3/4 mile and turn right at the GSU signs.

The meeting is on the bottom floor of building 2N. Presentations and readings are in the Lecture Hall; lunch will be served in the foyer. A link to directions and a campus map is here: <http://perimeter.gsu.edu/about-perimeter-college/our-campuses/newton/>.



## Member News

### WEB MANAGER VOLUNTEER POSITION OPENING

Dale and Sandy Hokanson have managed the GPS web site for the past 5 ½ years, but they are moving to MA in another year and wish to train a new manager/managers before they go. There is a technical part of the job as well as a non-technical part so it can be done by one or two different people. A full job description is available upon request to: [hokansonGA@comcast.net](mailto:hokansonGA@comcast.net).

**Lynn Pedersen's** book *The Nomenclature of Small Things* recently won the 2017 Eric Hoffer Academic Press Award. It was also on the Grand Prize Short List. Congratulations Lynn!

**Michael Diebert's** poem "The Saloon in the Side of the Mountain" appeared in the May issue of *The Tusculum Review*.

In April, **Jill Jennings** participated in the Writers Workshop group at the East County Library in Lehigh Acres, Fort Myers, Florida, where she read from her two books of poetry and led a poetry writing prompt. She also recently interviewed Ginger Murchison about her career as a poet and her writing process. (See page 6 for an excerpt.)

In May, **Elizabeth Garcia** read from her chapbook *Stunt Double* at Callanwolde Arts Center.

## Poetry News

### UGA Press Book Sale ends July 15

UGA is having a book sale of 600+ titles up to 70% off, including 80 poetry books, many under \$10. They offer free shipping to all US customers on orders over \$25.00 (USPS media mail only; other shipping methods are available at checkout).

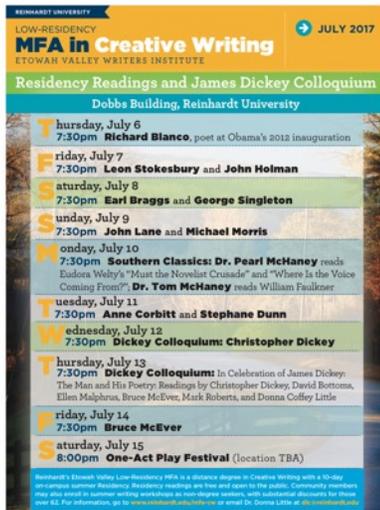
Visit [http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/special\\_offers](http://www.ugapress.org/index.php/books/special_offers)

**-You must enter this code during checkout to get the bargain prices:  
08BLOWOUT.**

**2017-2018 GPS FALL CONTESTS** will open for submissions September 1 with a deadline for all entries postmarked no later than November 15. Participants are allowed four entries in each of seven categories. In addition to earning cash prizes, the top three poems in each contest will be published in *The Reach of Song*, the annual GPS poetry anthology. Submissions by email are preferred, but if you are unable to do this, winners will still be asked to submit an electronic copy, if possible, for printing in *The Reach of Song*. For the full details and rules, go online to [www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/contests](http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/contests).

## Poetry News

**The Children’s Museum of Atlanta** is working on creating a paid poet residency in kindergarten classes for five Atlanta Public Schools. The goal is to have a real poet visit each classroom at least twice, followed by visits from their outreach staff where the children create and illustrate their own poetry. They are in the process of writing a grant for this program, but are seeking poets who might be comfortable with this age range. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Karen Kelly, director of exhibits and education, [kkelly@childrensmuseumatlanta.org](mailto:kkelly@childrensmuseumatlanta.org), 404-653-8157.



**Reinhardt Workshops**  
Reinhardt University's (Waleska, GA) low-residency MFA in Creative Writing includes a poetry track with workshops taught by William Wright, Stephen Corey and Bill Walsh, and a reading series headlined by Richard Blanco. *Non-degree-seekers can register for 10-day summer workshops, with a 50% discount for those over*

**62. The July reading series is free and open to the public.** For information, contact Dr. Donna Little at [dlc@reinhardt.edu](mailto:dlc@reinhardt.edu) or go to [www.reinhardt.edu/mfa-cw](http://www.reinhardt.edu/mfa-cw).

**Johns Creek Poetry Group:** Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Nov. 4 (2017 Johns Creek Poetry Festival). Meetings 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at 9560 Spruill Oaks Library, Spruill Road, Johns Creek, GA 30022. Contact Ron Boggs for more info: [ronboggs@hotmail.com](mailto:ronboggs@hotmail.com)

### Freedom Mic Night

There is a free open mic every first and third Saturday in Downtown Atlanta for spoken word poets. Find more information on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/freemicnight/>

## Upcoming Meetings

October 21  
Location TBA

## Future Newsletters

To include content in upcoming newsletters please contact:

[gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org](mailto:gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org)

or send member news to

Liz Garcia at:

[lizcranford@gmail.com](mailto:lizcranford@gmail.com)

**Excerpt from Jill Jennings's Interview with Ginger Murchison:**

**And now a few questions about the craft of poetry. Do you at some point read your draft aloud? Do you ever count syllables, even in free verse? Tell us a little about how you polish a poem to completion.**

I always read drafts aloud. I start that while the words are going down on the paper and keep it up all the way through the process. I count syllables big time in syllabic poems where I've set up an arbitrary system of line lengths. In "Every Last Time," for instance, the stanzas are three lines of 11, 7 and 6 syllables, a constraint I arbitrarily set for myself at the outset. I recommend that as a writing exercise. Stanley Plumly writes all his poems in 11-syllable lines. Reading him is like taking a course in syllabics. But writing a syllabic poem or not, I always count syllables for intensity. For intensity, poems want more stressed than unstressed syllables per line. Reading aloud, I can tell in my mouth when a line is flabby. That's definitely a place to stop and count syllables. Beyond that, I look for any word or line that might be a cliché or that sounds like it's reaching toward the "poetic." I don't want that. I also read for verb tenses (I want the present tense, mostly and muscular verbs, not "to be" verbs) and adjectives and adverbs (I want as few of them as possible). I guess you'd suspect that I'm meticulous about grammar. Actually, I was still tweaking poems after a scrap's first proof came out—and found things I hadn't noticed before. I'd agree with whoever said that the "real poem happens in the revision, not in the writing."

**Which poets do you read on a regular basis? Which ones have influenced you the most?**

I read something from (there's no hierarchy to my list) Kurt Brown, Galway Kinnell, Robert Fanning, David Baker, Ellen Bryant Voigt, W.S. Merwin and Laure-Anne Bosselaar almost daily. Kurt Brown, Robert Fanning, Laure-Anne Bosselaar and Thomas Lux books are all on my desk right now.

**What advice would you give to new writers? To those of us who are not new?**

Read contemporary poetry. Every day. Lots of it. And write. When I started trying to learn to write poetry I was reading 50 to 60 poems a day. I knew which poems I liked and which ones I didn't like, but I wasn't learning much about writing my own. After a while, I started asking myself, "What did this poet do to manipulate my response that the other poet didn't do?" Turns out, I was teaching myself to read like a writer instead of reading like a reader. I interrogated every poem. Every line. Every opening, every close. Gradually, I began to see matters of craft. It's been a long process. Diane Lockward interviewed me relevant to matters of craft in the poem "Roller Coaster." Some of you might be interested in that conversation. It's online at [http://dianelockward.blogspot.com/2016/04/the-poet-on-poem-ginger-murchison\\_20.html](http://dianelockward.blogspot.com/2016/04/the-poet-on-poem-ginger-murchison_20.html)

**You can read the full text of this interview on her Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=409830029374794&id=100010434013523](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=409830029374794&id=100010434013523)**

<b>GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY ORDER FORM</b>			
		QTY	PRICE
ANTHOLOGIES	<i>The Reach of Song 2017</i>	_____ x	\$ 15.00 = _____
	Copy for local library/school	_____ x	\$ 15.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2016</i>	_____ x	\$ 13.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2015</i>	_____ x	\$ 10.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2014</i>	_____ x	\$ 7.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2013</i>	_____ x	\$ 5.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2012</i>	_____ x	\$ 3.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2011</i>	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____
CHAPBOOKS	<i>The Reach of Song 2010</i>	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____
	<i>Requiem for the Unconvinced (2016)</i> by Ron Self	_____ x	\$ 10.00 = _____
	<i>South of the Ordinary (2014)</i> by Sandy Hokanson	_____ x	\$ 5.00 = _____
	<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	\$ 3.00 = _____
	<i>More Than Atoms (2010)</i> by Kandice Cook	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____
<b>TOTALS</b>		_____	_____ (Includes Shipping)
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>			
NAME _____			
ADDRESS _____			
CITY, STATE ZIP _____			
PHONE _____			
EMAIL _____			
<b>LIBRARY DONATION</b> (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 <b>Georgia Poetry Society</b> and mail along with this form to:			
Candace Green 441 Shadow Mountain Lane Cleveland, GA 30528			
For questions about ordering, call Candy Green at 706-348-8984.			
<b>Orders will be filled in August</b>			