

Georgia Poetry Society

Summer Quarterly Meeting In the Northeast Georgia Mountains

Christopher Martin is author of the memoir *This Gladdening Light* (Mercer University Press, 2017), for which he received the 2018 Georgia Author of the Year Award in Memoir and the Will D. Campbell Award in Creative Nonfiction. He has also written three poetry chapbooks and has received the George Scarbrough Prize for Poetry. Chris lives with his family in northwest Georgia; he teaches composition and literature at Kennesaw State University. His work appears in publications across the country. Chris writes a new monthly column on the craft of creative nonfiction, titled “Stay in No Realms: Seeking and Essaying,” for the Georgia Writers Association. You can find out more about Chris and his work at www.christopher-martin.net.



Rosemary Royston, author of *Splitting the Soil* (Finishing Line Press, 2014), resides in northeast Georgia with her family. Her poetry has been published in journals such as *Split Rock Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *KUDZU*, *NANO Fiction*, and **82 Review*. Two of her essays are included in *Women on Poetry: Tips on Writing, Teaching and Publishing by Successful Women Poets* (McFarland).



Rosemary is Vice President of Planning and Research at Young Harris College, where she teaches the occasional creative writing course. <https://theluxuryoftrees.wordpress.com/>.

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2019 Officers

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Ann Gillespie, Secretary
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Georgia Poetry Society Summer Quarterly Meeting
Santee Nacoochee Center Community Hall
283 Highway 255 North
Santee Nacoochee, GA 30571
July 27, 2019

- 9:45 Registration and Members “Book Fair”
Complimentary coffee and cookies will be available
- 10:15 President’s Welcome and Announcements
- 10:30 **Rosemary Royston and Chris Martin Workshop**
“A generative workshop considering compression, imagism,
and ways to incorporate these concepts into your own poetry.”
- 11:45 Break and Book Signing by Workshop Leaders
- 12:00 Open Mic for Members (sign up at registration desk)
- 12:15 Lunch Break (preorder by Monday, July 22, or bring your own)
- 1:00 Featured GPS Member Reading
- 1:20 **Rosemary Royston and Chris Martin Readings**
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Open Mic for Members (sign up at registration desk)
- 2:45 Adjournment

**Please support our featured speakers and your fellow members
by buying and reading their work!**

**3:30PM: ALL ARE INVITED TO STAY FOR A SPECIAL SHOWING OF A 45-MINUTE FILM
ON DAVE DRAKE, ENSLAVED SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER POTTER AND POET,
HOSTED BY GEORGE WINGARD, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**



Left: Community Hall is on left as you drive onto campus. Right: Main Center building.

DIRECTIONS to SAUTEE NACOOCHEE CENTER
283 Highway 255 North, Sautee Nacoochee, GA 30571

From Atlanta on I-85

Take I-85 North, then I-985 North towards Gainesville (exit I-85 from left lanes). Road changes from interstate to divided State Hwys 365/23 as you continue past Gainesville. After passing the last Gainesville exit (Jesse Jewell Parkway), continue a further 21 miles on Hwys 365/23 to EXIT at GA Hwy 105/Old Historic (Business) 441 to Clarkesville/Demorest/Helen. Turn left at top of ramp and drive short distance through retail/commercial strip. At 2nd light, keep left onto Cannon Bridge Rd (Hwy 105). Follow Hwy 105 for approx. 8.5 miles to its end (jct Highway 17). Turn left and go 5.7 miles on Hwy 17. Speed limit 45mph indicates entering Sautee Nacoochee. Look for Old Sautee Store on the right and turn immediately right onto Highway 255 N. Continue ¼ mile. The **Sautee Nacoochee Center** is on the left.

From Atlanta on GA Hwy 400

Take 400 North to end. Go straight at light; now you are on Longbranch Road. At intersection with Hwy 115 (lights), turn right toward Cleveland. In center of Cleveland, turn left at historic courthouse (lights) onto Hwy 129. After 0.4 miles, turn right (before Ingles) at first light onto Hwy 75 towards Helen. After 6.8 miles look for Indian mound with gazebo on the right. Immediately turn right onto Hwy 17. Continue 2.3 miles. Look for Old Sautee Store on the left and turn immediately before it onto Highway 255 N. Continue ¼ mile. The **Sautee Nacoochee Center** is on the left.

ORDER YOUR LUNCH ON THE GPS WEBSITE BY MONDAY, JULY 22ND!

Only pre-ordered lunches will be available

Choice of chicken salad croissant or a veggie wrap, with iced tea, chips, lemon bar.

Price: \$10

Go to the **Events** page at <http://georgiapoetrysociety.org/upcoming-events/> to order and pay.

As always, please feel free to bring your own lunch if you prefer.

Make a (Poetry) Weekend of It!



Image from the SNCA website by Silver Image Studio

The Georgia Poetry Society's summer quarterly meeting will be held in the Appalachian Mountains of northeast Georgia. It's a wonderful place to renew your spirit, an area rich in history, culture, and natural beauty. As a counterpoint, there's the busy tourist town of Alpine Helen. It will be a particularly great weekend for poetry-lovers at the Sautee Nacoochee Center, with some exciting, non-traditional poetry events taking place on campus. Join other GPS members in making a weekend of it—maybe even kick up your heels at the Saturday night contra dance!

Dave Drake, enslaved African American master potter and poet. Exhibit at the Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia. **Friday, July 26, 5:30-7:30pm** opening reception and talk; **Saturday, July 27, 3:30-4:30pm**, film showing. Both events are free. Dave, who worked in the Edgefield South Carolina Pottery District in the 1800s, was known for his command of the English language, and one of his greatest legacies is the poetry incised on a number of his works. <http://snca.org/folkpotteryWebsite/fpm/events.php>

Community Contra Dance, Saturday, July 27, 8-11pm (lesson for newcomers at 7:30). SNC Historic Gym. Live band and caller. Hugely popular monthly event draws people of all ages from around the region. Adults \$10. No prebooking. Cash at the door. <http://www.sauteecontra.com/>

doris davenport in performance. Sunday, July 28, 4pm. SNC theater. GPS member doris davenport, educator, writer, literary and performance poet, in a performance of call and response, movement, singing and more, based on her latest book of poetry.

<http://snca.org/snc/performance/billboard.php?active=dorisdavenport>

Full-price tickets \$18. **GPS members special rate \$10. Cash at the door.** No pre-booking. Seats being held for our group. Email Ann Willis at ann.c.willis@outlook.com if questions.

Lodging Options: the area has many hotels, motels, charming bed and breakfasts and cabin accommodations, some in quiet settings, others in the lively center of Helen. Close to the Sautee Nacoochee Center are: **Sautee Mountain Retreat** (cabins). Usually 2-night minimum but speak to operations manager Kathryn Vasquez if only one night is needed for this special weekend and mention GPS and SNCA; **Bernie's Restaurant and B&B; Stovall House B&B; Lucille's Mountain Top Inn and Spa.**

In Helen (5 miles) there are many chain motels/hotels as well as the more luxurious **Valhalla Resort** (check for deals). Just beyond Helen, **Unicoi State Park and Lodge** (7 miles) is also a popular choice, with hotel-style lodge rooms and cabins.

Member News

doris davenport will be on stage Sunday, July 28, 4pm, at the Sautee Nacoochee Center, in “doris davenport in performance.” She has also had work published this spring/summer in two anthologies: five poems in *Mountains Piled upon Mountains: Appalachian Nature Writing in the Anthropocene*. ed. Jessica Cory. WVU Press: Morgantown, WV. June 2019; and a poem sequence in *LGBTQ Fiction & Poetry from Appalachia*. eds. Jeff Mann & Julia Watts. Vandalia Press/WVU Press. April 2019.

Hester L. Furey's full length collection of poems, *Skeleton Woman Buys the Ticket*, is being published by Finishing Line Press. The expected publication date is July 2019.

Karen Paul Holmes was invited by the Tallahassee Writers' Association to do a reading and workshop in Tallahassee in May. She also enjoyed brunch at the home of Poets David Kirby and Barbara Hamby, who teach at FSU. Karen will lead a writing retreat, "Your Write Time" at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina, the weekend of July 26.

Lou Jones, 2009/2012 GPS contest chairperson, recently published his third poetry collection, *So You Want to Be a Poet*. The book is available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, iUniverse, and other online sites. Lou's earlier books are *From Microbe to Consciousness* and *After the Blast*.

Maren Mitchell has had poems accepted by the following publications: *Comstock Review* is publishing "Appalachian Come Home" in their Spring/Summer 2019 issue; *Tar River Poetry* will publish "Church of the Moment" in an upcoming issue; *Poetry East* took "**R**" for *Poetry East 97*, 2019 Fall; *Chiron Review* will publish "**W**" in a future issue.

Do you have any news to share?
Email Ann Willis, Newsletter Editor.
ann.c.willis@outlook.com
Submission deadline for fall issue: September 9, 2019

NATIONAL POET LAUREATE ANNOUNCED

June 19, 2019 press release: Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden today announced the appointment of **Joy Harjo** as the nation's 23rd Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry for 2019-2020. Harjo will take up her duties in the fall, opening the Library's annual literary season on Sept. 19 with a reading of her work in the Coolidge Auditorium.

Harjo is the first Native American poet to serve in the position—she is an enrolled member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. She succeeds Tracy K. Smith, who served two terms as laureate.

REPORTING BACK ON 2019 NATIONAL POETRY MONTH EVENTS

Jill Jennings reported a busy month of poetry readings and projects, several based on her new publication, *Pineapple Wine: Poems of Maui*. “Perhaps my Georgia friends would be most interested in the Teen Poetry Slam competition set up for the third time and the Teen Writers Workshops I did twice a month for the school year. They have been well received by the high school kids in a nearby town. I plan to continue them.” Jill produced, directed, and emceed Lehigh Acres Third Teen Poetry Slam for teenagers of Lee County, Florida. The event was held April 17th at the East County Library. All teenage presenters read or performed their own original spoken word pieces before a panel of judges. Cash prizes awarded for top three winners and two honorable mentions received leather-bound notebooks. Cash prizes provided by the Friends of the Library group, on which Jill also serves.



In northeast Georgia, GPS members **Ann Gillespie, Duanne Kaiser, Ivy Rutzky, and Ann Willis**, together with non-member Nancy Kollock of Clarkesville, coordinated a PoetTree project for National Poetry Month inspired by a tree of poems seen in Athens-Clarke County library last year. Twig “trees” were placed in three local libraries for the month and paper “leaves” provided for library visitors of any age to write a poem and hang it on the tree. The women led special pre-school and after-school poetry events at each of the libraries as part of the project; Ivy even creatively incorporated poetry readings into a Lego activity afternoon. In Clarkesville, they also organized an adult poetry-reading and -discussion event. Of the many high points of the project, the very best experience was when just one child (aged 9) showed up at the Clarkesville after-school event.

She sat patiently listening to readings by the four adult poets, then set to writing in short order about half a dozen of her own poems in the explained cinquain format with such energy and pleasure that she left the organizers delighted and inspired. The library managers have all requested that the PoetTree project be repeated in 2020. As one wrote in an email: “I believe the community really enjoyed the PoetTree—over 40 poems are on the tree. The books displayed also circulated well. It seems your efforts generated interest in poetry.”

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY TO ANNOUNCE 2019 FALL CONTEST CHANGES!

Watch for details soon by email to members and on the GPS website!

Poetry Events Around Georgia

Writers' Night Out at the Union County Community Center in Blairsville, Georgia, continues the second Friday of each month through November, sponsored by the North Carolina Writers' Network-West. An open mic follows the readers, who are: **July 12:** Victoria Barken and Ryvers Stewart; **August 9:** Mary Ricketson and Loren Leith; **September 13:** Kathy Nelson and Karen Paul Holmes.

Felton Eaddy and his Poetry Kitchen, Friday, July 26, and 4th Friday of each month. The central aim of the Poetry Kitchen is to support poets, increase the prominence of poetry, and create an opportunity for finding community through readings, performance, writing, teaching, recording and publishing. By organizing and curating public readings of original poetry and offering writing classes and workshops, the Poetry Kitchen creates a broad platform for the spoken and written word. Hammond House Museum, 503 Peeples St SW, Atlanta.

Poetry Reading at Callanwolde. Thursday, July 11 and August 8, 7:30pm, Open Readings. The first ten poets to sign up in advance by contacting ruth.windham@gmail.com may read for up to 5 minutes. Thursday, September 12, 7:30pm, Featuring Cecilia Woloch and Eve Hoffman. Held in the Library of the Historic Candler Mansion of the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, 980 Briarcliff Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. Free admission.

Great American Poetry Crawl, Saturday, July 6, 1pm. Brendan Walsh, Tony Morris, Melanie Goldey. E Shaver Booksellers, 326 Bull Street, Savannah, GA. Free admission.

doris davenport in performance, Sunday, July 28, 4pm. Sautee Nacoochee Center, Sautee Nacoochee, GA 30571. **Special GPS member ticket rate for this event.** See page 4 of this newsletter.

Poets Read, Tuesday, July 9: Rachele Chappell, Erika Land, Lisa Ezzard; Tuesday, August 13: Cheryl Stiles, Katie Fesuk, Eve Hoffman; September 10: Tina Mozelle Braziel, Ashley M. Jones, Christine Swint; October 8: Bonnie Barclay, Michael Diebert (and one to be named). Second Tuesdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm, at the Sewell Mill Library, 2051 Lower Roswell Rd, Marietta, GA 30068 (temporary location until renovation of Switzer Library is completed).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING: OCTOBER 26, 2019

2016 GPS Youth Contest Poems: Your Help is Needed!

by John Ottley, Advisor to the GPS Board

As the result of a tragic computer error, and other factors, the winning 2016 GPS Youth Contest poems were lost and thus never published.

Although the winners did receive their cash awards, the society let these young persons down by failing to keep our commitment that the poems would appear in our anthology, *The Reach of Song*, for that year.

This has been a bitter disappointment to Clela Reed, who brilliantly chaired the 2016 Youth Contest, and to others I'm sure.

The sad fact is that, despite many encouraging progress reports at the time, our 2016 anthology never appeared.

Steve Shields undertook to recover the 2015 (for the 2016 anthology) fall contests winners' poems and succeeded.

Last year, I volunteered to try to recover the missing 2016 Youth Contest winners. I wrote individual personalized letters to each teacher whose student had won in the contests. I also wrote the principals of the schools involved. Follow-up telephone calls were made to some schools.

Change happens fast in today's world. Teachers, students, and principals move on, etc. So far, I have succeeded in recovering four of the nine cash-winning youth poems. I am committed to seeing these poems printed by GPS in one form or another.

As you read this today, I sincerely ask that you review the following list of unrecovered youth poems. If you have any clue as to how I might track down the author or teacher, I would greatly appreciate your getting in touch with me at jkottley2@gmail.com or at 404.918.6864.

1. *One Thousand Words* by Mendy Reyes at Norcross Elementary. Teacher: Marla Parish.
2. *Homerun* by Parker Pace at T.G. Scott Elementary. Teacher: Jennifer Giles.
3. *The Bottomless Pit* by Amelfa Bleyl of Taylor Road Middle School. Teacher: Kathleen Barkley.
4. *The Death of Winter* by Natalie der Valle of Sequoyah High School. Teacher: Cathy Murphy.
5. *Awareness* by Haleigh Streak of Creekview High School. Teacher: Jeffrey Anderson.

FOOTNOTE by Miriam Jacobs, GPS President

My sincere thanks and the thanks of the GPS Board go to John Ottley and to Steven Shields for their dogged persistence in trying to retrieve these "lost" poems so that they can be published. I am pleased to announce that the winning 2015 fall contest poems and the 2016 youth contest winners that have been found so far will be included in the upcoming anthology. Due to the extra work required, this will slightly delay publication, but I am sure members will agree it is worth the wait. We anticipate that *The Reach of Song 2019* will be available later this fall.