

Georgia Poetry Society

Beth Gylys - Morning Speaker

Currently a Professor at Georgia State University, Beth Gylys has published two award winning collections of poetry *Spot in the Dark* (Ohio State UP 2004) and *Bodies that Hum* (1999 Silverfish Review Press). Her chapbook *Matchbook* was published in fall 07 by La Vita Poetica Press. She also has a chapbook *Balloon Heart* (Wind Press 1998). Awarded fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, The University of Cincinnati, and



Syracuse University, she has had work published in many journals including *Paris Review*, *Antioch Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Boston Review*, and *The Southern Review*.

Christopher Martin - Afternoon Speaker

Christopher Martin is the author of the poetry chapbook *A Conference of Birds* (New Native Press 2012). Some of Chris's poems and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in *Shambhala Sun*, *Ruminate Magazine*, *Thrush Poetry Journal*, *Drafthorse*, *Still: The Journal*, *Buddhist Poetry Review*, the *Southern Poetry Anthology, Volume V: Georgia*, and elsewhere. Chris was recently the featured poet for *Town Creek Poetry*, and his poem



“Marcescence,” published as a broadside by Thrush Press in October 2012, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Chris is the founder and editor-in-chief of the online literary magazine *Flycatcher* and is a contributing editor at *New Southerner*, where he writes the monthly blog *Kairos and Crisis*. He is pursuing a Master of Arts in Professional Writing at Kennesaw State University, where he was recognized as the Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year for 2012 – 2013. Chris lives with his wife and their two young children in the northwest Georgia piedmont between the Allatoona Range and Kennesaw Mountain. His poetry collection *Starting from Kennesaw*, as yet unpublished, was recently named a finalist in the Texas Review Press Breakthrough Prize: Georgia. You can find him online at www.christopher-martin.net.

Inside this issue:

Schedule	2
Lunch Reservation	2
Directions/Map	3
Upcoming Events	4,5
Member News	6
Reach of Song Submissions	9
Reach of Song Order Form	10

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

Contact Information

www.georgiapoetrysociety.org

gps@georgiapoetrysociety.org

678-242-0153

2013 Officers:

Sandy Hokanson, President

Ann Gillespie, V. President

Francie Smith-Roundtree, Secretary

Roseanna Almaee, Treasurer

2013 Board:

Robert Lynn

Terry Hensel,

Bill Early

John Ottley, Jr.

Steven Shields

January 19th Quarterly Meeting Schedule

8:30-9:00	Coffee and mingling
9:00-9:15	Presidents Welcome and announcements
9:15-9:30	Open Mic
9:30-10:30	Beth Gylys - Morning Speaker
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:00	Installation of 2013 Officers
11:00-11:15	Honoring Past Presidents
11:15-11:45	Fall Contest winners
11:45-12:00	Raffle
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-1:30	Jill Jennings - <i>Dead Man's Flower</i>
1:30-2:25	Chris Martin - Afternoon speaker
2:25-2:35	Break
2:35-2:50	Open Mic
2:50-3:00	Closing Comments
3:00	Board Meeting

----- cut out and mail with check -----

January 19th Lunch Reservation

Menu: Chicken Parmesan, Penne Pasta with Veggie Sauce, Sauteed Zucchini/Squash/Onions in butter, Italian Salad, Fresh Baked Garlic Rolls, Cheesecake with Cherry Topping, Ice Tea

Cost: \$12.00 per person (The GPS is subsidizing \$4.00 per person to keep the cost low)

_____ Total number of lunches reserved. List all names for the reservation:

_____, _____
_____, _____
_____, _____

Make your check out to Georgia Poetry Society and mail **no later than January 10, 2013** to:

Dale Hokanson, Treasurer
640 Sweet Gum Forest Lane
Alpharetta, GA 30005

Upcoming Events

19 January 2013 – Quarterly Meeting, Kennesaw State University. Beth Gylys morning speaker, Christopher Martin afternoon speaker, Past Presidents honored, Winners of the Fall GPS Contests announced.

Jill Jennings will also be reading from her second full-length book of poetry, *Dead Man's Flower*, published by Yawn's Publishing. Songs of death, loss and longing alternate with lyrical glimpses of Hawaii, where Ms. Jennings, a retired teacher from Cherokee County Schools, spends a good portion of each year. Copies of her book will be available to purchase for \$12.95.

February 22, 2013 – Deadline for *Reach Of Song 2013* submissions to Editor Liz Garcia. (See page 9 for details.)

February 28, 2013 – Contest Deadline for Georgia and Alabama Poetry Societies Joint Poetry Contest. (See details, page 4.) Winners announced at the April 20th Quarterly Meeting.

20 April 2013 – Quarterly Meeting, University of Western Georgia College, Carrollton, GA. We are hosting a very exciting **joint meeting** with the **Alabama State Poetry Society**, with a very special speaker, National Poet Laureate **Natasha Trethewey**, and a Poetry Workshop by UWG Professor/Poets Greg Fraser and Chad Davidson. Everyone should

COME TO CARROLLTON! There will be a Round Robin forum Friday Night, April 19th run by ASPS President, Barry Marks. (A block of hotel rooms will be reserved for those coming up the day before. More details to come.) Winners of the Alabama/Georgia Joint Poetry Contests will be announced. Contest deadline is February

Joint Georgia and Alabama Poetry Contest Rules

1. Poems may not have won any previous contests or be published anywhere.
2. 40 lines or less.
3. \$2 entrance fee per poem, non-cash prizes to be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd places.
4. Those who are members of both Georgia and Alabama Poetry Societies must choose one or the other in contest “b-e”. They can not enter contests for both states. It is suggested that you enter based on your mailing address, unless you are an officer or board member of one state.
5. Specific contests:
 - a. Humorous poem open to GA and AL poets, judged by GA judge.
 - b. Traditional poetry form open to GA only, judged by AL judge.
 - c. Traditional poetry form open to AL only, judged by GA judge.
 - d. Free style poetry form open to GA only, judged by AL judge.
 - e. Free style poetry form open to AL only, judged by GA judge.
 - f. The Alabama State Poetry Society Spring Contest, any subject, any style, open to both GA and AL, judged by AL judge.
6. Mail your poems and entry fees to: **Sandy Hokanson, 640 Sweet Gum Forest Lane, Alpharetta, GA 30005. Make checks out to: Georgia Poetry Society.**
7. Include 2 copies of each poem, one with the contest name only, the other with the contest name, your name, address and phone number in the top, right hand corner.
7. Deadline for entries is **February 28, 2013**. Winners to be announced at the joint meeting to be held at West Georgia College, Carrollton, GA, on April 20, 2013. Winners will be given the opportunity to read their poems as time allows.
8. Any questions: hokansonGA@comcast.net

Member News

Jeanne Koone, life-time member of the Georgia Poetry Society died August 28, 2012. She was 88. The write-up in the Harris county Journal read, "Jeanne Koone's Death saddens Thousands, near and far." Elloise Connolly, a good friend and fellow Pine Mountain Poet said, "She had a long history of teaching, publishing and was a wonderful poet." Betsy Hollis-Frey, another friend says, "She was a lovely, talented lady with a GREAT sense of humor." Here is one of the last poems she wrote and a fitting tribute to her.

SUNSET

Molly brings a chair so I can sit and hoe.
The dahlias do insist on it or else they will not grow.
Young Willie comes to weed; He has so much to learn.
I'm the one to teach him for I have time to burn.

Guess I was too busy; I noticed much too late,
Old age crept upon me, time refused to wait.
Movement slowed, almost stopped; I cannot stoop nor bend,
nor dig nor plant nor reap, so for Willy I must send.

Old friends in my garden, daily still are found.
Iris, lilies, rose and phlox, there they hang around.
Friend wind whispers secrets; gardenias scent the bower;
Ole Sol warms my bones; we keep company each hour.

Come, young Willy, come, snip the mint; then rest a spell;
While Molly serves the tea, garden lore we will tell.
But now I weary grow the rest I will postpone;
While you do homeward go, I shall rest alone.

Purple pathways summon, the western sky burns bright.
Another garden waits beyond the farthest edge of night.

Lynn Farmer recently won First Place in the 6th Annual Chattahoochee Valley Writers Conference National Poetry Contest, for her poem "Listening to Mahler's No. 8."

Paul Samuels wins senior laureate contest awards - Paul Samuels, 68, of Dunwoody, won the 2012 Georgia Honor Scroll Award with his free verse "Two Views from the Foot of the 59th Street Bridge." He is a licensed real estate broker and real estate training instructor in Georgia and South Carolina. This marks the 20th anniversary of the annual national Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition for American Poets age 50 and older privately sponsored by Amy Kitchener's Angels Without Wings Foundation., Monterey, Calif. All winning poems appear in Golden Words anthology. Details about the contest, and the national winners' poems, can be read on the sponsor's website at www.amykitchenerfdn.org

Member News (cont.)

Beat Chronic Pain, An Insider's Guide by GPS member, **Maren O. Mitchell**, offers help for those with chronic pain who do not have information on drug-free alternatives. Since 1987, due to a spinal cord tumor and surgery, Maren O. Mitchell has had chronic pain, termed "central pain." For years, through trial and error, she searched for ways to live a sane and full life again. For over twenty years now, without relying on drugs, she has been accomplishing her goal.

One of the methods Maren found for coping has been writing. Her poetry has appeared in *Southern Humanities Review*, *The Classical Outlook*, *The Journal of Kentucky Studies*, *Appalachian Journal*, *Red Clay Reader*, *Volume 4*, *The Richmond Broom*, *The Arts Journal*, and the anthologies *Sunrise from Blue Thunder*, *Echoes Across the Blue Ridge*, and *Nurturing Paws*.

Poems are archived in online journals *Wild Goose Poetry Review* and *Pirene's Fountain*, and forthcoming in *The Southern Poetry Anthology, Volume V: Georgia*. Her poem "Not the Poem" won this year's 1st Place Award for Excellence in Poetry from the Georgia Poetry Society. Maren lives with her husband in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia.

Beat Chronic Pain, An Insider's Guide is available through Line of Sight Press for \$9.75 by CreateSpace on Amazon and by Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/dp/0985311908>.

Rupert Fike won the Finalist Award (2nd) place in the 48th annual Georgia Author of the Year Awards in the poetry category. His collection, *Lotus Buffet* (Brick Road Poetry Press, 2011) was the basis for the nomination and award. Kennesaw State's Ralph Tejada Wilson was the judge, and he described *Lotus Buffet* as "the book of great good humor and charm, and surprising turns upon every page. It is also a work that examines nostalgia as an influence upon the formation and sustenance of ones conscience."

4th Annual Johns Creek Poetry Festival

You can see some great photos from the November 17 Festival posted on the AJC Access Atlanta site: (Only one correction: The photo identified as Karen Pickell reading is actually Karen Holmes reciting her poem.) <http://www.accessatlanta.com/gallery/lifestyles/holiday/photos-crisp-fall-weekend/g6XM/#2885851>

Some highlights were:

Fifty-Seven attendees!

14 poets read their poems

Uma Narayan and her 19 kids from Alpharetta International Academy recited classic poetry.

Lavonne Westbrooks had 16 kids in her Children's Poetry Circle.

A splendid reading by Georgia Poet Laureate Judson Mitcham.

Other News

New Mexico State Poetry Society has had to cancel the last three of its quarterly contests due to a family emergency of the Contest Chairman. The decision was to return all entries and uncashed entry fees, rather than try to play "catch-up" while they are putting together the 2013 Annual NFSPS Convention, to be hosted by our State Society next June in Albuquerque.

Along with the quarterly contest, they had planned to do a spring anthology of the winners, but that plan, too, has been canceled.

Carol Borsello, another member of their Society will be logging the documents, re-packaging and returning them to entrants with a copy of this letter, and forwarding this message to those entrants who sent us email addresses.

If you entered either the July or October contests and your materials and fees are not returned to you by November 30, please email Carol at cborsello@gmail.com.

They will have the traditional Convention and Invocation contests at the NFSPS event next year, but someone else has stepped up to take on that job. So, watch for the details on those contests, coming in the January *Strophes*!

National Federation of State Poetry Society Convention - June 13-16, Albuquerque, New Mexico. For information, go to www.nmpoetry.com

Dates To Remember!

December 31, 2012 - Deadline for Membership Renewal

January 10, 2013 - Deadline for lunch reservations

January 19, 2013 - Kennesaw Quarterly Meeting

January 31, 2013 - Deadline Youth Contest

February 22, 2013 - Deadline *ROS* Submissions

February 28, 2013 - Deadline Joint GPS & ASPs Contest

April 20, 2013 - Carrollton Quarterly Meeting

COME TO CARROLLTON!

Call for Submissions

The Reach of Song 2013

For the 2013 edition of *The Reach of Song*, Editor Elizabeth Garcia, will accept submissions beginning January 1, 2013, through Thursday, 22 February 2013, from members in good standing of the Georgia Poetry Society. The Society encourages all current members to submit works for *The Reach of Song 2013*, although membership does not guarantee inclusion. In addition to member poems, the collection will contain the winning poems of the 2013 youth and adult contests, as well as the recipients of The Awards for Excellence among member poems. The anthology will be available at the July 2013 quarterly GPS meeting.

Please submit **two poems** for consideration. Include two carefully typed copies of each work, one copy with your name and address. Entries

- (1) must be 40 lines or fewer,
- (2) must not have been previously published in *The Reach of Song*, and
- (3) must not have won a cash prize in any state-wide poetry competition.

Submissions may be on any subject and may follow any form. Two nonmember judges will rank the works. Those receiving highest marks will qualify for First-, Second-, and Third-Place Awards for Excellence. The poems receiving these awards will be published in *The Reach of Song 2013* and the award recipients will receive free copies of the anthology. No more than one poem per poet will be included in the Member Section. Each poet will receive a proof of the poem chosen for publication, with a request for a prompt response.

Email submissions to lizcranford@gmail.com are encouraged, to reduce retyping, and must be **received** by **22 February 2013**. Entries sent by the U.S. postal service must be **postmarked** no later than **22 February 2013**. Send them via snail mail to:

The Reach of Song, 2013
Elizabeth Garcia, Editor
Georgia Poetry Society
3292 Crossfield Lane
Duluth, GA 30096

Copies of 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2006-07, and 2001-02 editions of *The Reach of Song*, as well as advance copies of 2013, may be ordered **by mail only** on the accompanying form. Payment by check or money order made payable to Georgia Poetry Society must be included.

On the accompanying form as well, members may order prepaid copies of the 2013 anthology to donate to the library(s) or school(s) of their choice. These copies will be mailed with a donation letter to the library the donor designates (please include full address).

Member questions may be posted by email to lizcranford@gmail.com or by telephone to 404-863-8885.

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY ORDER FORM			
		QTY	PRICE
ANTHOLOGIES	NEW <i>The Reach of Song 2013</i> Available for pickup in July Copy for local library/school	_____ x	\$ 15.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2012</i>	_____ x	\$ 13.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2011</i>	_____ x	\$ 10.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2010</i>	_____ x	\$ 8.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2009</i>	_____ x	\$ 5.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2008</i>	_____ x	\$ 3.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2006-07</i>	_____ x	\$ 2.00 = _____
	<i>The Reach of Song 2001-02</i>	_____ x	\$ 1.00 = _____
CHAPBOOKS	NEW <i>Under a Hundred Winner</i> Ron Self; Francis Alix; Mildred Greear	_____ x	\$ 9.95 = _____
	NEW <i>The Rare, Persistent Light</i> Chapbook by Lynn Farmer	_____ x	\$ 6.00 = _____
	<i>More Than Atoms</i> Chapbook by Kandice Cook, 2010	_____ x	\$ 4.00 = _____
	<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)			
Will Deliver Myself (no address needed) OR 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:			
Elizabeth Garcia, <i>The Reach of Song</i> 3292 Crossfield Lane Duluth, Georgia 30096			
Orders will be filled in August			