The Georgia Poetry Society’s

2020 Contest Guidelines

The following contests make up our 2020 contest cycle. Details on entering our contests follow these brief descriptions:

**The Byron Herbert Reece International Poetry Award.** Honoring Byron Herbert Reece, whose north Georgia upbringing informed five volumes of poetry on themes of nature and the Bible. This competition is open to GPS members and non-members and will include a first prize of $500, second prize of $250, and a third prize of $100. Two HM certificates will be awarded. Length and form: Open. Theme: Nature.

**The Ira E. Harrison Social Issues Poetry Award.** Honoring past GPS President Ira Harrison, author of *Poetry and Prevention; B.A.A.D. Beautiful African-American Daughters: Poems of Tribute.* This competition is open to GPS members and non-members and will include a first prize of $250, a second prize of $100, and a third prize of $50. Two HM certificates will be awarded. Length and form: Open. Theme: Any contemporary American social issue.

**The Nonce-sense Poetry Award.** Poets are inventive souls and continue to bring new forms forward. This competition challenges entrants to submit a poem in such an invented, or “nonce,” form. Rhymed forms are especially encouraged. This competition is open only to GPS members and will include a first prize of $100, a second prize of $50, and a third prize of $25. Up to three HM certificates may be awarded. Form: Nonce. Length and theme: Open.

**The Reigning Cats and Dogs Award.** Flannery O’Conner may have had her peacocks, and Lord Byron may have brought a bear to college with him for a pet, but dogs and cats have more often been in evidence across the decades as poetic muses. Where would we be without T.S. Eliot’s cats George Pushdragon, Rumpleteazer and Mungojerrie, for example? Didn’t Billy Collins advise that if a poem seemed not to be going anywhere, one should put a dog in it? This competition welcomes submissions of poems about dogs or cats (sorry, no other pets this time). The competition is open only to GPS members and will include a first prize of $100, a second prize of $50, and a third prize of $25. Up to three HM certificates may be awarded. Form, theme and length: Open. No doggerel. No catterwaulin’ either.
The Georgia Poetry Society would like to inform members of these additional competitions, which have separate or additional requirements:

**The Ron Self Chapbook Award.** Honoring the late GPS Past President Ron Self, author of *Rich Man’s Son, Art of War, and Requiem for the Unconvinced.* This competition is open to GPS members and non-members and will include a first prize of $250 and 25 copies of the winning chapbook. Only one prize is awarded. The entry fee entitles all submitters to a copy of the winning chapbook. Length and form: Open. Theme: Any. See separate rules for entry.

**The Reach of Song Member Excellence Award.** All submissions to the 2021 issue of *The Reach of Song* (anticipated publication date July 2021) are automatically entered for consideration in this award competition. Submissions will be welcomed from February 1 – March 15, 2021. Details forthcoming in the winter issue of the GPS Newsletter and on the website.

**The Georgia Poetry Society Award.** Administered by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS), this contest is sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Society and for NFSPS members only (your GPS membership automatically qualifies you as an NFSPS member). Theme: Subject: Life in the Future, beyond Earth or on it. Form: Any Rhyming Form, slant acceptable, no nonce forms, identify form on entry, 40 line limit. 1st Prize: $150.00 || 2nd Prize: $75.00 || 3rd Prize: $25.00. For entry details please see this link.

**ENTRY FEES**

1. For these contests, entry fees are as follows for up to three poems per contest:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contest</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Non-Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Byron Herbert Reece Award</em></td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ira E. Harrison Social Issues Poetry Award</em></td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nonce-Sense Poetry Award</em></td>
<td>$5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Reigning Cats and Dogs Award</em></td>
<td>$5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. For these contests, entry fees and limits are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contest</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Non-Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ron Self Chapbook Award</strong></td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Limit: One manuscript</em></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reach of Song Member Excellence Award</strong></td>
<td>FREE</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Limit: Two poems</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Georgia Poetry Society Award (NFPS)</strong></td>
<td>$1</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Limit: one poem per contest; see rules for additional requirements at nfspsc.com</em></td>
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</tbody>
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2. All fees are paid via PayPal to the Georgia Poetry Society. We do not accept cash, checks, or money orders as payment.

3. Payment must accompany submission.

4. Life members of the Georgia Poetry Society pay no entry fees to enter GPS contests.

**RULES GOVERNING GPS CONTESTS**

*These rules apply to the Byron Herbert Reece Award, the Ira E. Harrison Award, the Nonce-Sense Award and the Reigning Cats and Dogs Award.*

1. All poems must be in English. We do not accept translations.

2. Poems submitted must be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in any form, including electronically, and not under consideration or accepted for publication.

3. Poems may not be withdrawn or revised after submission.

4. All poems submitted will be considered for inclusion in our annual anthology, *The Reach of Song*. Poets grant GPS First North American serial rights. Subsequent rights revert to the author after publication.

5. All poems must be titled.

6. Judges are selected by GPS but cannot be GPS members.

7. No ties are awarded. Decisions of the judges are final.

8. To enter contests as a GPS Member, membership dues must be current at the time of entry.
9. Submissions are limited to three poems per contest. The same poems may not be entered in more than one GPS contest.

10. Poems must be composed single-spaced using a conventional, standard typeface, such as Times, in 12-point font.

11. Do not include illustrations.

12. Do not center poems on the page.

13. Use upper and lower case boldface for titles instead of all caps or underlines. Do not increase font size of titles from body text. Do not center titles on the page.

14. The Georgia Poetry Society assumes no responsibility for loss due to email or other online mishaps beyond its control.

15. Poems are destroyed after the contests conclude and are not returned. Do not send your only copy.

16. GPS strongly supports equal rights and treatment of all persons without regard to race, nationality, culture, gender, age, disability status or sexual orientation. Accordingly, poems are disqualified if they are found to contain indecencies, obscenities, defamations, or hateful language.

17. The Georgia Poetry Society reserves the right to cancel any contest for which there is an insufficient number of entries.

18. Contestants may not win more than once per contest.

19. No poem or poem sequence may exceed 210 lines or 2500 words.

20. Editors of *The Reach of Song* reserve the right to consult with authors of prize-winning poems selected for publication if there are questions about spelling, grammar or punctuation, and to request emendations of such, unless they are integral to the construction or meaning of the poem.
HOW TO ENTER*

*These directions apply to the Byron Herbert Reece Award, the Ira E. Harrison Award, the Nonce-Sense Award and the Reigning Cats and Dogs Award.

1. All entries must be emailed to: contests.gps@gmail.com

2. In the body of your email, list the titles of your poems and full contact information. Do not put your name or any other identifying information anywhere on your submitted poems.

3. Attach the poems as individual files to the email. Attach them in .doc or .docx form. Do not use .pdf or other file formats. If we are unable to open your attachment, the entry is disqualified.

4. In the “subject” line of your email, identify to which contest the poems are to be directed. Use this format, please: Contest abbreviation, your last name, first name. The abbreviations are as follows: BHR for Byron Herbert Reece award; IEH for Ira E. Harrison Award; NON for the Nonce-Sense Award; PETS for the Reigning Cats and Dogs Award.

   As an example: BHR, Shields, Steven.

5. Use separate emails for each contest. Do not submit poems to multiple contests in the same email and ask us to sort them out for you.

6. Poems are accepted from October 1 at 12:01 AM to November 15, 2020 at 11:59 PM. Entries received outside this timeframe are not accepted. Winners will be announced at the January 2021 GPS quarterly meeting.

7. If a poem is longer than a single page, indicate continuation by placing the poem’s title and the words “new stanza” or “continued” in the upper right corner of the following page(s).

8. Do not send biographical information in the body of your email or as attachment.
The Georgia Poetry Society Announces

The Ron Self Chapbook Award

2020

The Ron Self Chapbook Award. Honoring GPS Past President Ron Self, author of Rich Man’s Son, Art of War, and Requiem for the Unconvinced. Open to GPS members and non-members. Includes a first prize of $250 and 25 copies of the winning chapbook. Only one prize is awarded. The entry fee entitles all submitters to a copy of the winning chapbook. Length and form: Open. Theme: Any.

RULES GOVERNING THE RON SELF CHAPBOOK AWARD

1. GPS strongly supports equal rights and treatment of all persons without regard to race, nationality, culture, gender, age, disability status or sexual orientation. Accordingly, manuscripts are disqualified if they are found to contain indecencies, obscenities, defamations, or other forms of hateful or discriminatory language.

2. Only one manuscript entry is permitted per poet.

3. Winners of any GPS chapbook competition within the past five years may not enter.

4. Previously published poems are acceptable. In fact, they are desirable. Be sure you hold the rights to republish these, should your manuscript be chosen. List previously published poems on the acknowledgements page.

5. GPS determines chapbook production, including layout and design, using Kindle Direct Publishing. Publication rights rest with GPS for 12 months after publication. After that, rights revert to the author.

6. All poems must be in English. We do not accept translations.

7. Poems submitted must be the original work of the contestant.
8. Manuscripts may not be revised after submission. If withdrawn, no refunds of entry fees are made.

9. Judges are selected by GPS but cannot be GPS members. Decisions of the judge(s) are final.

10. The Georgia Poetry Society assumes no responsibility for loss due to email or other online mishaps beyond its control.

11. To enter the contest as a GPS Member, membership dues must be current at the time of entry.

12. We reserve the right to consult with authors if there are questions about spelling, grammar or punctuation, and to request emendations of such, unless they are integral to the construction or meaning of the poem or manuscript.

Format Requirements

1. Manuscripts cannot be longer than 25 pages, not including a title page, table of contents page(s) and acknowledgments page(s).

2. Except for the title page, all pages must be numbered.

3. Poems must be composed single-spaced using a conventional, standard typeface, such as Times, in 12-point font.

4. Do not include illustrations or photographs with the manuscript.

5. Do not center poems on the page.

6. Use upper and lower case boldface for titles instead of all caps or underlines. Do not increase font size of titles from body text. Do not center titles on the page.

7. Manuscripts are deleted after the contests conclude and are not returned. Do not send your only copy.
Entry Requirements

1. The fee to enter is $10 for Georgia Poetry Society members and $25 for non-members. Fees are due with manuscript and are payable by PayPal to the Georgia Poetry Society. We do not accept cash, checks or money orders.

2. All entries must be emailed to: contests.gps@gmail.com.

3. In the body of your email, list the title of your manuscript and full contact information. Do not send biographical information in the body of your email or as attachment. Do not put your name or any other identifying information anywhere on your submitted manuscript, including the title page.

4. Attach the manuscript as a file to the email. Attach it in .doc or .docx form. **Do not use .pdf or other file formats.** If we are unable to open your attachment, the entry is disqualified and no refund is given.

5. On the “subject” line of your email, identify to which contest the manuscript is to be directed (GPS is running multiple contests simultaneously to the same email address). Use this format: Contest abbreviation, your last name, first name.

   The contest abbreviation is RON.

   As an example: RON, Shields, Steven.

6. Poems are accepted from October 1 at 12:01 AM to November 15, 2020 at 11:59 PM. Entries received outside this timeframe are not accepted. The winner will be announced at the January 2021 GPS quarterly meeting.