The Atlanta Writers Club, founded April 20, 1914
The club exists to: Assist and encourage writers, Unite writers for mutual benefits, Train members to write, Encourage and promote creativity, Develop their talents, Create open forums for discussions on topics important to the writers, And promote the advancement of...

April 2004 Issue
Anniversary Meeting
April 15th

AWC meets the third Thursday of each month, September through May.

The Atlanta Writers Club’s 90th Anniversary Gala will be held on April 15th at Mary Mac's Tea Room, 224 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30309, 404-876-1800. We will have dinner and entertainment. All club members are encouraged to attend! The meal will be catered for $15.88/person. Please contact George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or gjweinstein@yahoo.com or via mail at 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075, to make reservations and how many guests you will bring. For more information and the menu items, see Page 10.

IN MEMORIAM
Jenny Lind Mather Pettys, 94, passed away on Friday, March 26, 2004. She was the AWC President for the 1973-1974 term. Val, Jenny!

Deadline for the May e-Quill is April 25th!
All submissions to e-Quill Editor: Thom Fallis, AWCQuill@go.com or AWCQuill@yahoo.com
Kay duPont will undergo a personality change on April 15th, 2004. The transformation will also transport Kay and members of The Atlanta Writers Club at our 90th anniversary celebration dinner back in time over 140 years. Ms. duPont will appear that night as Mary Todd Lincoln in an abbreviated version of her one-woman play, *A Visit With Mary Todd Lincoln*.

“I never know how Mary feels on any given occasion; her mood varies from time to time, performance to performance,” Kay says. “Sometimes she says things that are not in the script, I just can’t tell ahead of time.”

Transformations and surprise turns are not new to Kay duPont, however. She is a native of Atlanta and a graduate of North Fulton High School. At eighteen she authored a column for a neighborhood weekly and published a poetry chapbook titled *Illusions and Dreams*. She majored in English at DeKalb College, intending to become a professional writer, but she detoured to Samford University in Birmingham, for a pre-law degree.

Kay worked as a paralegal and taught noncredit creative writing at the University of Alabama-Birmingham before returning to Atlanta in 1969. There her career turned from writer to speaker after her articles on communications and her book, *Don’t Let Your Participles Dangle in Public!* produced invitations to teach Business Writing at a variety of corporate offices. For the next 20 years she presented training seminars and keynotes on topics including Business Etiquette, Presentation Skills and Success Skills at Atlanta’s top corporations. She also wrote two more business books: *Business Etiquette and Professionalism* and *Handling Diversity in the Workplace: Communications is the Key*.

In 2000 Mary Todd Lincoln claimed her time and interest. For three years she researched and wrote, reading 50 to 60 older references. Last year the result of her work was published. Her historical novel, *Loving Mr. Lincoln: The Personal Diaries of Mary Todd Lincoln*, won the 2003 Georgia Writers Association Members Fiction Award and she has been nominated for 2004 Georgia Author of the Year for First Novel. Her competition in this category includes former president Jimmy Carter. She is also in line for the 2004 Lincoln Group of New York Award of Achievement.

Except for her work as a copy editor, Kay is now spending full time promoting and performing her play. After performing at the Carter Presidential Library, she has accepted invitations to perform at other Presidential Libraries around the country. Kay, a former member of The Atlanta Writers Club, says, “I really hope there is time for a Q&A session after the play. I love the person to person interactions and look forward to discussions about the writing process.” We will all be looking forward to this illustrious occasion.

**Coming In May:**

**Pre-session:** Ava Chambers and George Weinstein will lead a discussion of the fascinating, bizarre creative process of fiction writing. They will discuss their experiences with characters who introduce themselves and won’t leave the author alone, story lines that twist and turn and surprise even the plotter, and dialog that is dictated to the author by the characters rather than “invented”. Other members are encouraged to share their experiences with the unexpected magic of creation.

**CALLING ALL OWLS!**

Who-o-o-o do you know to invite to the AWC? There are people who would love to know about us; you’re the one to spread the word. Bring a guest with you and all of us will benefit --- you, the guest, and the club.
ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

Henry Close has a new book out, Becoming a Forgiving Person.


Sara Hines Martin gave a presentation of her book, More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Georgia Women to the student body at Wesleyan College in Macon. While there, she did a TV interview and a book signing at Barnes & Noble. She also gave a presentation to the Lumpkin County Historical Society in Dahlonega and donated a gift copy of the book to the library at North Georgia College. Sara gave a presentation at the Kennesaw National Battlefield Park and Charis Bookstore sponsored her presentation in Atlanta.

Cecil Murphey received the prestigious 2004 Silver Angel award for Excellence in Media (Print) for writing I Choose to Stay: A Black Teacher Refuses to Desert the Inner City (Kensington). This award is not for the book, but is given for the quality of the writing. He will receive a trophy and a plaque. Cec recently taught in writer’s conferences in Colorado Springs, Dallas, Charlotte, and Oakland. In April, he is teaching a continuing course at Mt. Hermon, California, and later in the month he’ll be in Davenport, Iowa, where he grew up. His friend, Twila Belk, has set up a one-day writers’ conference and a different one for high schoolers. In May, he’ll be on the faculty at Yvonne Lehman’s Blue Ridge Conference (near Asheville, North Carolina). The May issue of Atlanta Magazine will feature an article about Cec written by his friend, Jennifer Schuchmann.

Jeanne Osborne Shaw won the MacIntyre Prize of the Poetry Society of Georgia with her entry, "The Second Garden".

James Stevens’ novel, Coal Cracker Blues, has been optioned by filmmaker Michael James Kacey. Mr. Kacey’s Los Angeles-based company, Anthracite Films, has previously produced the feature film, Daybreak, which will be released shortly to home video by Tapeworm Video Distributors.

Fran Stewart will be doing a writer's workshop at Humpus Bumpus Bookstore in Cumming on April 18th from 2pm-4pm. If you know of anyone who would like a “jumpstart” in getting their writing creativity flowing, please let them know about it. They can read about it on Fran’s website www.franstewart.com, click on schedule.

If you have an achievement that you’d like the AWC members to know about, please contact Thom Fallis at 770-322-0606 or email him at AWCQuill@go.com or AWCQuill@yahoo.com.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE QUILL
Three new features have been added to the Quill and the Quill Xtra: What I’m Reading, Book Reviews and My Favorite Author. We welcome submissions from the membership. We are accepting submissions of Essays, Prose and Poetry up to 2,500 words for the Quill Showcase.
History of the Atlanta Writers Club - Part III
Adrian Drost

Part I and II covered the history of the “Association of Writers”, which led to the organization of the Atlanta Writers Club in 1914. All the historic information came from the AWC archives and writings of previous club publications. The first two parts were published 2003 in the Quill.

On a dogwood-laden day, April 20, 1914, the Atlanta Writers Club was organized at the Carnegie Library, now known as the Atlanta Public Library. Born out of the minds of Mrs. Thomas Peters (formerly Kate Ross of Macon) and Mrs. Lollie Belle Wylie, “to bring about a helpful and more intimate acquaintance among Atlanta writers, to promote their talents and market their writings,” the Atlanta Writers Club has been a literary beacon in the cultural life of Atlanta for ninety years. It has grown to be the oldest literary organization of its kind in Georgia. The club’s first President was William Francis Parkhurst, with John Temple Graves as Honorary president. Isma Dooley was First-Vice-President, Angus Perkerson Second-Vice-President, and Catherine Wooten Secretary. Other charter members, according to an Atlanta Historical Society Bulletin were: Mrs. Robert Argo, Tarleton Collier, and Britt Craig. The majority of the early members became famous in literary and newspaper annals.

Original members included: Charles W. Hubner, Sam Dibble, Milton McGovern, Mrs. R.C. Patterson, Frank L. Stanton, Georgia’s first Poet Laureate, W. T. Waters, W. C. Jenes, W. B. Seabrook, Dudley Glass, Miss Nan Stephens, Isabelle Thomas, Linton Hopkins, Professor John Derry, Lucian Lamar Knight, A. B. Caldwell, H.E. Harman, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers Winter, L. P. Hills, W. H. Hillyer, Kate Massy, Laura Wood, Clark Howell, later editor of the Atlanta Constitution, James R. Gray, Fred Lewis, Waddy Thompson, Mrs. Stovall, Jennie McMillan, Mrs. J.O. Parmalee, J. Gortatowsky, W.S. Foster, Mrs. Robert Blackburn, Miss. Nita Black, Mrs. Frank Neely, Mrs. D.M. Terrell, James B. Nevin, later editor of the Atlanta Georgian, Miss Helen Gray, and Mrs. Belle Howard Newman.

Frank L. Stanton, Georgia's first Poet Laureate, perhaps best remembered for his poems set to music, "Just A-Wearying for You" and "Mighty Lak a Rose", was an early member. Others were Charles W. Hubner, lyricist, painter, musician and historian, often called "Poet Laureate of the South"; Lucius Perry Hills, referred to as Atlanta's wandering poet and lecturer; Clark Howell, editor of The Atlanta Constitution for many years; James R. Gray, who became editor of The Atlanta Journal; James B. Nevin, at one time editor of The Atlanta Georgian; Ward Green, Atlanta Journal reporter and novelist, as well as a famous New York columnist and playwright.

Miss Lula Vollmer was another playwright who had successful plays on Broadway and she was also an author. Dr. Mary Brent Whiteside was a well-known poet and teacher at Oglethorpe University. James Arthur McKnight was a famous foreign correspondent, friend and confident of Mark Twain. Great editor James Gordon Bennett, editorialist Ralph Jones, Dudley Glass, who wrote a humorous column for The Atlanta Georgian; Wilbur Kurtz, Sr. and his wife were technical advisors of the movie, Gone With the Wind; Judge John D. Humphries; Mrs. Bates Block; Colonel Walter McElreath; Dr. and Mrs. Lee Bivings; Mrs. W. F. Shallenberger, Mrs. Bonita Crowe; James E. Warren, Jr., outstanding poet and author of an English book; Miss Marguerite Steedman, author of But You'll Be Back and Refuge in Avalon, and many others were distinguished members in the early years.

Mr. Angus Perkerson, who originated The Atlanta Journal Sunday Magazine, was a charter member and second Vice-President. (Margaret Mitchell was one of his staff writers). His wife, Medora Field Perkerson, was author of Who Killed Aunt Maggie and Blood on Her Shoe, as well as her beautiful non-fiction book, White Columns in Georgia.

(Continued on Page 9)
From the Tip of My Pen - A Writer’s Tip of the Month
Fran Stewart

April Showers

Everyone knows that water dilutes, makes less strong, neutralizes. As writers, we need to strengthen our prose, so those April showers of excess words must be stopped. Let’s get out our red pencils and try it on these three examples:

1) Martha walked over to the window and stood silently looking out at the cold, icy rain that was falling from the sky.

What would you delete? We know that icy rain is cold; we know the direction rain falls. I might take out the words over, silently, cold, and that was falling from the sky. And maybe the word out, unless I wanted to emphasize her separation from nature. The result? Martha walked to the window and stood looking at the icy rain.

2) Thomasina patted her own frizzy red hair self-consciously as she gazed, awestruck, at the self-possessed, sleek-haired woman who strode confidently in through the doorway.

By eliminating the excess verbiage, we get a much cleaner sentence: Thomasina patted her own hair as she gazed at the sleek-haired woman who strode through the doorway. A case could be made for various other substitutions, depending on what needed to be emphasized in the story. Perhaps we need to be reminded that her hair is frizzy and/or red, but Thomasina wouldn’t be patting her own hair if she weren’t self-conscious. The trick is to strip as many words as possible, and then decide, one at a time, whether or not each word is necessary.

3) On Saturdays, we would always go for picnics in the park.

“Would” is one of those words that is generally overused. Each Saturday we took food and blankets to the park. Of course, picnics usually take place in parks, as opposed to forests or parking garages, so the words “in the park” could easily be eliminated. Try: Saturdays were picnic days. On Saturdays, we went on picnics. Every Saturday, picnics were the agenda. The possibilities are endless, as you can see.

The point here is to decide what information is pertinent to the story. Leave out all the rest. Readers may enjoy swimming in your flow of words, but they do not need to drown.

MEMBER INTEREST:

Would you like to see your story published on the internet? Carol Roach has a daily newsletter called Storytime Tapestry. There are two ways of subscribing one is to write directly to her: winterose@videotron.ca, and the other is to subscribe directly to: storytime_tapestry-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, (you need to be a member to submit stories because of the long waiting list of actual writers on her site.)

She's got a large audience who receive the letter. Great things can come from Internet exposure! Email Carol and join her newsletter and start sending in those stories. Margo Fallis writes for her and each time one of her stories appears on the site, she gets tons of letters from 'fans'. Carol uses mostly inspirational stories, but you can ask her directly if you have any questions. Just drop her a line.
Member Spotlight: Edna Hawkins

Edna Bramlett Hawkins was born in Elijay, Georgia in 1913 and attended high school in Tate and Canton. She was first published at the age of 14 and has been writing ever since. She has been published in over 50 markets for 50 years and has two books in print, a book of poetry entitled Vagabond of Dreams and an autobiography, The Path I Did Not Choose, the result of an article that appeared in Billy Graham’s Decision Magazine. The article centered on her life choices after a house fire claimed the life of her husband, Joe.

Edna was a columnist for the Marietta Daily Journal and poet Laureate of Cobb County. She was the first woman in Georgia selected to serve on a grand jury. She was founder and president of the Marietta Writers Club and held offices in the Atlanta Manuscript Club. She was a member of the Dixie Council of Authors and Journalists and taught classes on writing the article at their annual conventions in St. Simons Island, Georgia. She has been published in many anthologies and won numerous awards. She has been in demand as a lecturer and guest speaker. Edna is most proud of having taught Sunday School for over 40 years. For ten years she was part owner of a tour company and worked as a travel guide, going to every state and major tourist attraction in the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, Europe and Japan.

Edna says her philosophy of life comes from Psalms: “I was young, now I am old but I have never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed begging bread.” She is currently working on her first novel, On Lavender Mountain.

March Meeting Recap

Twenty people attended the meeting – eighteen members and the two guests.

In the business session we elected a new slate of officers for the 2004-2005:

President: George Weinstein  First VP: David Ryback
Contest VP: Adrian Drost  Membership VP: Sara Martin
Secretary: Teresa Gernazian  Treasurer: Kathleen Boehmig
Asst Treasurer: Luann Sodano  Quill Editor: Ed Wananbwa

Thanks to our nominating committee: Richard Anderson, Teresa Gernazian and David Ryback for their efforts.

Our emcee for our Spoken Magazine meeting was Kathleen Mainland who delighted us with many Steven Wrightisms between the readings of twenty short pieces submitted by the membership. The selections, which ranged from humorous to serious, can be found in the Quill Showcase attachment. Thanks to all who submitted their work and to Kathleen for her efforts and dedication to the Spoken Magazine.


WOW: Doug Pearce (guest of Polly Neal) and Chris Drake (guest of Doug Pearce)
Lest We Forget --- Remembering Our Writers

April Birthdays

01: Milan Kundera, 1929, novelist, The Unbearable Lightness of Being
02: Émile Zola, 1840, novelist, The Drunkard, Germinal
04: Maya Angelou, 1928, novelist, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
05: Robert Bloch, 1917, novelist, Psycho
07: Donald Barthelme, 1931, writer, Snow White, The Dead Father
07: Sara Hines Martin, AWC
07: William Wordsworth, 1770, poet
08: Barbara Kingsolver, 1955, novelist, The Bean Trees, Pigs in Heaven, The Poisonwood Bible
09: Charles Baudelaire, 1821, poet, The Flowers of Evil
10: Carole M. Madan, AWC
10: Paul Theroux, 1941, novelist, The Great Railway Bazaar: By Train Through Asia
13: Eudora Welty, 1909, writer, Delta Wedding, A Curtain of Green, The Optimist's Daughter
15: Polly Hunt Neal, AWC
17: Thornton Wilder, 1897, novelist & playwright, The Bridge Over San Luis Ray, Our Town
17: Isak Dinesen, 1885, writer, Seven Gothic Tales, Out of Africa, Winter's Tales, Last Tales
21: Charlotte Brontë, 1816, novelist, Jane Eyre
22: Vladimir Nabokov, 1899, novelist, Lolita, Pnin, Pale Fire
23: William Shakespeare, 1564, playwright, Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear, Romeo and Juliet
24: Elizabeth Goudge, 1900, novelist, Green Dolphin Street
24: Robert Penn Warren, 1905, novelist, All the King's Men
25: Charles Cohn, AWC
25: Maud Hart Lovelace, 1892, author, Betsy-Tacy, Betsy's Wedding
26: Bernard Malamud, 1914, writer, The Natural
28: Harper Lee, 1926, novelist, To Kill a Mockingbird

Members! Do we have YOUR birthday? If not, call the Editor at 770-322-0606 or email: AWCQuill@go.com or AWCQuill@yahoo.com

Contest-Du-Mois

The winners for the February 15th - March 15th Monthly Contest – Rain are:

First Place: Rainy Days and Storms - Polly Neal
Second Place: The Wonder of Rain - John Witkowski
Third Place: Rain, Rain Go Away - Bernie Blanton

For the others who submitted, great job! Your entries did well, but these three did a bit better.

Attention! Last Monthly Contest of the Year!

Our last Atlanta Writer's Club contest for the year will be due on April 15th and the theme is Spring Flowers. Write any type of story you want about your favorite flower and why it is your favorite. Since the Spring Contest will take up much of my time, there will not be a May monthly contest.

Don’t forget the spring contest entries. Don’t leave them until the last minute. Get them sent in ASAP.

Send your entries to Margo at writeurlife@yahoo.com or mail them to her at Margo Fallis, PO Box 619, Tucker, GA, 30085-0619.
SPRING CONTEST – DUE APRIL 15th, 2004

Since it worked out so well at the Fall Contest, as Contest Chairperson, I decided to have four categories for the Spring Contest. I’m sending info out now so you can have a lot of time to work on your entries. The categories will be as follows:

1. Rhyming Poem
   Up to 30 lines. Use one of the two following types:
   Couplets – which means two lines rhyme, such as:
   Bill went to the store
   He fell on the floor.
   Quatrain – which is where the alternate lines rhyme – such as:
   Bill went to the store
   He bought a pink jug
   He wanted something more
   So he bought a coffee mug
   These are just examples to show you the rhyming method. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

2. Write a profile of a historical person who is dead
   You are to “interview” the person and write an article about the interview, including quotes. Do not just type questions and answers. Write it into an article. Find some magazines that may contain this type. I will find some and send them to you via email if you would like examples. The article should be 900-1100 words in length. The person you are ‘interviewing’ must have died before 1950 and you can go back in time as far as you’d like.

3. Flash Fiction
   You are to write a story in less than 250 words. It must have a beginning, middle, and end. The story is to begin with the words: “Raindrops dripped from the branch of the oak tree.” These words will not be included in your 250 word limit, so let’s see what you can do with it.

4. Write a One Act Comedy Play
   There are many people in AWC who say they are playwrights. Make this play have no more than 4 characters and be no more than 2000 words of dialogue. Your stage directions etc won’t count for the 2000 words. Your characters can be people, animals, ghosts…whatever you want.

If you have any questions, please call me at 770-322-0606. Remember, you can send them in anytime before the 15th of April. If you have email access and receive the Quill via email, send your entries in as Word Attachments, or in the body of the email. Only send it via snail mail if you have NO email access. It will save me a lot of time!!! My address is Margo Fallis, PO Box 619, Tucker, GA 30085-0619.
The Co-Prez Sez
David Ryback

The End of the Tunnel

How quickly time passes! Another few months and we'll be saying hello to summer and farewell to another year of meetings. Then we will hello to a new administration, headed by our hard-working George Weinstein.

This season has been unusually busy for me--trying to market three books while preparing to co-author two others. The bad news is the same-old, same-old--reams of query letters followed by form-letter rejections. Occasional requests for proposal are followed by more rejections, sometimes even in form-letter style once again. But wait, there is some good news!

Yesterday, I got a call from a delightful New York agent who impressed me instantly with her incisive insight into my manuscript and what would need to happen if she were to get involved. Did that ever make my day! It made my week! My month! Maybe even my year!! So there is a rainbow at the end of the query/rejection tunnel.

Don't give up. Finding the right agent is like finding a life partner. Both take a lot of time and energy but, at the end of the day, are well worth the trouble. When you find that special person, it can change your life--not to mention the life of your book.

Keep plugging away. All you need is talent, discipline and persistence. Atlanta Writers Club can support you on all three points. Support should be a two-way street. Support your club and we'll support you. There's a big world out there. Here's a niche where your writer self is invited to be all it can be.

Atlanta Writers Club Contacts

Co-Presidents Sara Martin: 770-975-7980 & David Ryback: 404-377-3588
First VP Carole Madan: 770-346-0736 Contest VP Margo Fallis: 770-322-0606
Memb. VP Kathleen Boehmig: 678-393-9324 Secretary Teresa Gernazian: 404-636-8447
Quill Editor Thom Fallis: 770-322-0606 Historian Adrian Drost: 770-998-7015
Achievements Teresa Gernazian: 404-636-8447 Poetry Editor Dorothy Worth: 404-636-1316
Speaker Interviews Richard Anderson: 770-992-8332

History of the Atlanta Writers Club – Part III (continued from page 4)

Historical Dates:
1914 - Organization of the Atlanta Writers Club was established
1923 - The AWC moved to the Atlanta Women's Club
1924 - The first Author's Groove tree was planted at Piedmont Park
1948 - The first Conference of Writers was established
1961 - The first addition of The Quill was published

References:
The preceding history was assembled from stories by Elizabeth Mack (1957) and Aurella Austin (1967), all from the AWC archive files.
The Atlanta Writers Club’s 90th Anniversary Gala will be held on April 15th at Mary Mac's Tea Room, 224 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30309, 404-876-1800. Please try to arrange carpools to ease parking for all members. In addition to the large lot behind the restaurant, parking is allowed on the side streets except where signs indicate prohibitions. A cash bar will be available for those wishing to partake.

The schedule for the evening is as follows:

6:15-6:45 Members and their guests arrive at Mary Mac's, congregate in the Skyline Room, and order from the Myrtle Menu (see below)
6:45-7:15 Playwright and actor Kay duPont performs from her novel/play Loving Mr. Lincoln
7:15-7:30 Speeches by club officers and long-time members
7:30-9:30 Supper with piano accompaniment by Michael Anderson (www.pianomagic.com)

Per the Mary Mac's general manager, members and guests will pay the restaurant at the cashier before departing ($15.88 per person including tax and tip); no prepayments are necessary, nor will the club collect money from you.

Please contact George Weinstein at 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075, via phone at 770-552-5887, or by email at giweinstein@yahoo.com to reserve places for yourself and any guests you plan to bring. We need to report the total to Mary Mac's no later than April 8th.

Myrtle Menu

Please choose one: Chicken and Dumplings, Fried Chicken Breast, Fried Chicken legs (3), Country Fried Steak, Meatloaf with Tomato Sauce, Roast Pork with Cornbread Dressing and Gravy, Baked Turkey with Cornbread Dressing and Gravy.


Please choose one: Banana Pudding, Georgia Peach Cobbler

Assorted Breads
Coffee, Tea or Punch

* Indicates one of our vegetarian friendly items.