



May 2004 Issue
Contest Awards
Meeting

Fifth Meeting of the New Year! Join Us!

In our BRAND new meeting place, we'll be inducting new club officers for the new year (2004-2005) and awarding contest prizes. We invite all of you to join us for an exciting meeting.

Note: NEW TIMES!

Register & Pay Dues: 7:00-7:15 p.m.
Pre-Session: 7:15-7:45 p.m.
Main Speaker: 7:45-8:15 p.m.
AWC Business Session: 8:15-8:45 p.m.
Adjourn: 9:00 p.m.

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 -

PRE-MEETING SUPPER!
Members are invited to meet for supper at the Colonnade Restaurant (1879 Cheshire Bridge Road) prior to the monthly meeting. The host will not seat the group until everyone arrives (in order to know the number of seats needed), so please try to arrive promptly at 5:45pm.

..... This month
Pre-Session: Ava Chambers & George Weinstein Main Speaker: Richard Croker
Topic: *Fiction Writing Process* Topic: *Writing To Make Men Free*

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

NEW MEETING LOCATION: Rock Spring Presbyterian Church: 1824 Piedmont Road NE 30324. This is south of the major intersection of Piedmont Road and Cheshire Bridge Road. For a detailed map: <http://mapsonus.switchboard.com>

VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE!

Our new website is up and running! Visit us at: www.atlantawritersclub.org
Thanks to Erik Voss and Kathleen Boehmig for all their efforts!

In this Issue:

Speaker Interview: Richard Croker	2	Jenny Lind Mather Pettys	3
Board Member Meeting	3	Member Spotlight: Walt Duensing... ..	4
From the Tip of My Pen	5	Accomplishments & Accolades.....	5
April Meeting Recap	6	Lest We Forget	7
Contest-Du-Mois	8	The Co-Prez Sez.....	9
Membership Renewal Form	10		

Deadline for the June e-Quill is May 25th!
All submissions to e-Quill Editor: Thom Fallis, AWCQuill@go.com or AWCQuill@yahoo.com

SPEAKER INTERVIEW: RICHARD CROKER

by Richard Anderson

Richard Croker is a native Georgian who grew up in East Point and now lives in Marietta. A year ago his book agent called with a message that has changed his life. “I’ve got an offer on your book from William Morrow – Harper Collins. They want to know if you will write a series.” Fortuity? Fate? Coincidence? Synergy? Richard wasn’t planning to write a historical novel when he and his daughter, Amanda, visited the Antietam National Battlefield Park in 1993. Then, by chance, their innkeeper in Sharpsburg, Maryland gave Richard a copy of The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara. Richard read it, loved it and thought, *Someone needs to write a book like this about Antietam.*

Richard was writing, producing and directing sports telecasts and features at Turner Broadcasting where he started in 1977 after graduating from Georgia State University. Recognition he received there for well-written television pieces had given him confidence in his writing ability, and he decided to write the story of Antietam. “Of course,” he says, “writing for television is a very different animal than writing historical fiction.”

In writing for television, Richard says, “You must let the pictures speak with little added commentary.” By contrast, conventional history is “a terrific action and adventure story, usually told without the action and adventure.” Writing his novel, To Make Men Free, he was determined to show all the action and bring the historical characters to life for his readers. The publisher calls the book “A stirring tale of blood, glory, intrigue, mutiny, deceit, jealousy, revenge, nobility and power . . .”

Richard says his writing was motivated primarily by the story and significance of the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single day in American history. The Confederate defeat dissuaded European powers from recognizing that would-be independent nation and gave beleaguered President Lincoln the occasion to publish his Emancipation Proclamation.

With The Killer Angels as his “template”, Croker sought to get inside the minds and emotions of the historical characters. He researched over 80 sources for background and authenticity. The historian at the Antietam Battlefield Park endorsed his research. In 1996, while writing the book, Richard left the Turner network to freelance in sports reporting. Gradually he worked into writing, directing and producing independent film documentaries for several networks. His biggest production was a six-hour program for TLC in 2000 called *Rome, Power and The Glory*.

Today Richard is working full time on a sequel, a novel about the battle of Fredericksburg, and he’s thinking about future volumes—Chancellorsville? Gettysburg? “Fortunately,” he says, “my wife, Terry, has a good job, because writing books isn’t providing enough return yet to put all the groceries on the table.”

Members are encouraged to bring their books to the meeting to show and sell!

After the May meeting, the next Atlanta Writers Club meeting will be on September 16th.

Enjoy your summer months!

See you in September!



CALLING ALL OWLS!

Who-o-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.

Our Pre-Session Speakers: Ava Chambers and George Weinstein

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.

Remembering: Jenny Lind Mather Pettys

Jenny Lind Mather Pettys was born in Austell, Georgia on July 16, 1910 and moved to Atlanta with her parents, twin sister and older brother when she was ten. She graduated from Washington Seminary. She attended Randolph Macon Women's College in Virginia for one year and Shorter College in Rome for two years. In May of 1933, she married to Norman W. Pettys. In 1973, she earned her B.A. in journalism from Georgia State University. She has one daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Pettys has been interested in writing since the age of eleven when she, her twin sister and a nine-year-old neighbor boy wrote a book. It sold for thirty-five cents to the families of the authors. From the ages of eleven through fifteen, her stories and poems appeared in the kiddie section of the Atlanta Journal. Later her literary efforts appeared in high school and college newspapers and magazines.

She has had articles in the Atlanta Journal, the Atlanta Constitution and Georgia Magazine, as well as poems published in the Northside News. She has won many prizes in the Atlanta Writers Club, of which she was president in 1973-74. In 1968, she published a book, which she had written when her daughter was four. Two Little Moon-faced Moodles was dedicated to her children and her grandchildren.

Mrs. Pettys took an active interest in civic affairs following her winning a prize in a national contest at the end of World War II about improving the post war world. She wrote letters to senators, representatives and local newspapers. She appeared on occasions before state legislative committee hearings. In 1955, she was asked to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Atlanta School Study Council.

Mrs. Pettys is the daughter of Roy S. Mather, who, along with his brother, founded Mather Brothers Furniture Company, once a chain of 32 stores, and who was-president of the company until his death. Descended from a brother of Cotton Mather, Mrs. Pettys believes that there are many witches to be burned. Unlike her famous relative, she believes it in the political sense. She passed away on Friday, March 26, 2004 at the age of 94.

Board Member Meeting:

The AWC board will meet on **Saturday, June 12, at 4 p.m.** at Rock Spring Presbyterian Church (our monthly meeting location). We will discuss plans for the upcoming year including outreach programs and publicity to encourage new membership and ideas to stimulate participation during our monthly meetings. If you have any suggestions, please contact George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or gjweinstein@yahoo.com and he will present your ideas to the Board on June 12.

Member Spotlight: Walt Duensing

WHY DO I WRITE AND WHY DO I WRITE WHAT I WRITE?

A mote of dust singularly, is insignificant to the point of obscurity, but place it under an eyelid and it takes on monstrous proportions for it grinds, it grates and it claws at sensitive tissue. It will be recognized. It will not be ignored.

So it is with words. A single word may be ignored--pushed aside, but words do not remain singular for long. They mass, they agglutinate, they morph and they transform themselves into sentences and passages. During the small hours of the morning they stomp about in one's mind demanding to be heard--and seen; that visible format is called writing.

Why do I write what I write about? For me it covers a broad range of interests--people, places, history, events, mistakes--the list goes on. I do not have a specific category to dote on.

I was born in a sod house, on the prairies of South Dakota, on a homestead that reverted back to part of a reservation. When I was four my parents returned to Kansas. As poor farmers our primary objective was to make it through the dust bowl era.

Elementary school years were neither pleasant nor exciting. They consisted primarily of fifty or more students--grades one through eight--being crammed into a small structure and all under the eyes of one teacher. It was a parochial school, religiously oriented with all forenoon classes in German. After lunch (a sandwich and an apple or a cup of Jello, brought from home in a gallon syrup bucket) the classes were in English. Such things as grammar, punctuation, etc., were not a high priority.

In the late 20's the Kansas State Board of Education had decreed that all schools in the state had to have a library. Ours was a two-shelved kitchen cabinet, hanging behind the teacher's desk. It contained about twelve books and was kept locked so we would not waste our time reading.

During my seventh grade year the collective parents managed to scrape up enough money to buy a set of encyclopedias. You had to have the teacher's permission to use it. In those last two years of elementary school I read the entire set from cover to cover. I was considered the class brain because I loved to read and was the class outcast because I showed no interest in farming.

Hitler invaded Poland two days before I began Junior High. By graduation time in 1943, formal education for male students had declined to the point that emphasis was on preparation for military service instead of education.

World War II and the U.S. Navy opened doors of travel for me. I never considered the dangers. I was going places, seeing things and meeting people. I had never seen a mountain. I went through boot camp in Idaho where they touched the sky. On the way to medical school in California I witnessed my first body of water larger than a farm pond. It was called the Pacific Ocean. I reported to my first ship in Oregon. We sailed to the Hawaiian Islands, numerous archipelagos in the South Pacific, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Japan and China before I was twenty-one. Art school and work in a TV studio broadened my range of interests. A recall to active duty introduced me to the mysterious world of micro-biology and medical research as well as to another curiosity seeker, Peg, my love and wife of fifty-four years.

Perhaps it was the Korean conflict that spurred me to write. During it I spent the better part of two years on an ammunition ship which provided an impetus for doing things other than thinking about the fact that we were sailing about, off the coast of Korea, on 2,000 tons of explosives. Our ship served a bit like a traveling restaurant for the "men o' war" by providing a plodding platter, a table d'hote of explosives, to the sleek, fast, heavy-armed fighting ships, while steaming in a twenty mile square around the island of Ullung-do, just below the 38th parallel. One did not always concentrate on reality. I recall seeing contrails of MIGs high above and imagining them to be birds with long white tails on their way to new feeding grounds.

(Continued on Page 6)

From the Tip of My Pen - A Writer's Tip of the Month

Fran Stewart

The Merrie Month of May – Special Effects in Language

Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe would drive most of us nuts if we had to read about it on a regular basis. If you write historical fiction (or fact), remember that the people you are writing about thought, spoke, and reacted in ways that, to them, were modern. An occasional use of the creative spelling we've come to associate with previous centuries may help to create the setting of your piece, but a constant barrage of ye and thee and olde and thither and hence tends to irritate readers. Often the best way to indicate an historical setting is simply to adopt a more formal tone in the narrative and an occasional odd word, phrase, or spelling in dialogue.

Of course, it is just as important to avoid anachronisms, such as having a fifteenth century nobleman quoting Shakespeare, who was born in the mid-sixteenth century. Every detail in historical fiction should be appropriate to the age about which you are writing. A good reference tool is *The New York Public Library Desk Reference*. It has, for instance, a list of Significant Inventions and Technological Advances, which will show you that you can have a character wearing eyeglasses in the year 1350, but not in the year 1250, since spectacles were invented in 1285.

First check your own facts, and then use a good editor to be sure your writing is age-appropriate.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

Michael Buchanan and his co-author Diane Lang were guest lecturers on Celebrity Cruises during the first week in April. He also will be speaking and signing books at Barnes & Noble in Cincinnati on April 24.

Momma Nature (**Carole Madan**) had two articles about her in the *Cherokee News* in the past two months. One article showed pictures and a description of the Networking Entrepreneurial Women's group she founded. The second was complete with pictures from the backyard sanctuary she has created as a landscaper and discussed her goal of healing the world through sharing nature with all comers. Another article in *Atlanta Parent Magazine* quoted Momma Nature as a landscaper and master gardener. Pictures of her working with a young neighbor were used as an example of teaching children in the garden. In the Winter issue of *North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society's* newsletter, Carole's original article on "Landscaping With Natives" premiered; then a different version of the same concept was published in the *Georgia Native Plant Society* newsletter a month later. Seems like all the parts of her life are starting to come together now – and it only took four years!

Sara Hines Martin gave a presentation on her book, More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Georgia Women, at the annual meeting of the Georgia Association of College Bookstores at Callaway Gardens. That organization chose Sara as its author of the year and presented her a check for \$500!

Polly Neal reports having a freak run of prizes for three paintings recently. The National League of American Pen Women had an annual art show in March. She submitted three pieces, which won FOUR prizes: First, Second, Best in Show, and Member's Choice awards.

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*

Member Spotlight: Walt Duensing (Continued from Page 4)

In our post-war travels, Peg and I have enjoyed parts of Canada, the United Kingdom, a large segment of Europe, Greece and the Aegean Sea plus areas of the Caribbean. We avoid the great cities, the touted resorts, the grand hotels and the chic restaurants, we go to meet people in their environments, experience local history and enjoy the hospitality of cozy little B&Bs. We drive the narrow, twisting country roads where getting lost is one of the pleasures, spotting the albino pheasant is a highlight and waiting for birds to finish their baths in ruts in the road after a shower becomes the basis for a favored memory.

Those are the things I relive when I write, so I write. Should I expect acclaim? Should time stand still to ponder my work? Omar said it succinctly: "Times flies. The flower for this morning blooms--tomorrow dies. That one thing is certain, all the rest is lies." So, maybe when I write I am only evicting dust motes?

April Meeting Recap

Twenty-nine people attended our 90th anniversary meeting at Mary Mac's Tea Room. Playwright and actor Kay DuPont performed from her novel/play Loving Mr. Lincoln. Edna Hawkins presented some humorous comments on the life and times of writers. Terry Strawser, lawyer turned comedian, gave a short stand-up routine. While we were enjoying our meal, Michael Anderson proved the musical background. For more on the evening's events, turn to page 9 for Sara Hines Martin's report.

Georgia Center for the Book upcoming events

Between May 4 and May 19, we'll be hosting 6 free author programs, most of them at the Decatur Library Auditorium. Here's a sneak preview of the schedule so you can mark your calendars.

Tue May 4: KAREN HUGHES, White House Counselor and Director of Communications for President George W. Bush, offers an inside view of the Bush White House in her book, *Ten Minutes From Normal*. **12:30 p.m.** Gaines Chapel, Presser Hall, Agnes Scott College

Wed May 5: Heralded author MARITA GOLDEN looks at the nature of identity and the human spirit in her engrossing new nonfiction book, *Don't Play in the Sun: One Woman's Journey Through the Color Complex*. **7 p.m.** Decatur Library

Wed May 12: Popular Oprah-honored author BRET LOTT (Jewel) writes of love and reconciliation in his imaginative, poignant new novel, *A Song I Knew By Heart*. **7 p.m.** Decatur Library.

Thur May 13: SANDRA CONROY, wife of Pat Conroy and author of the bestselling novel *The Sunday Wife*, talks about her first novel, newly reissued, *Making Waves*, in this special appearance. **7 p.m.** Decatur Library.

Mon May 17: Former New York Times reporter JAMES HIRSCH writes in *Two Souls Indivisible* of two men, one black and the other white, who survived as POWs in Vietnam to forge a remarkable friendship. Hirsch and the two men will be here for this unique program. **7 p.m.** Decatur Library

Wed May 19: Emory University historian TOM CHAFFIN discusses his highly praised biography of the legendary 19th century American explorer John Fremont, *Pathfinder*. **7 p.m.** Decatur Library.

Bill Starr Director, Georgia Center for the Book
Marketing/Programming Coordinator, DeKalb County Public Library
215 Sycamore Street
Decatur, Georgia 30030
404-370-8450, Ext. 2225

Lest We Forget --- Remembering Our Writers

May Birthdays

- 01: Joseph Heller, 1923, novelist, Catch-22
 01: Bobbie Ann Mason, 1940, novelist, Shiloh and Other Stories, Feather Crowns
 03: Nicolo Machiavelli, 1469, author, The Prince
 04: David Guterson, 1956, novelist, Snow Falling on Cedars, East of the Mountains
 04: Amos Oz (Amos Klausner), 1939, writer, My Michael
 06: Gaston Leroux, 1868, novelist, The Phantom of the Opera
 08: Peter Benchley, 1940, novelist, Jaws
 08: **Edna Hawkins**, [AWC](#)
 08: Thomas Pynchon, 1937, novelist, Gravity's Rainbow
 08: Gary Snyder, 1930, poet, Turtle Island
 09: Richard Adams, 1920, writer, Watership Down
 10: Arthur Kopit, 1937, playwright, Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet ...
 10: **Edward Wanambwa**, [AWC](#)
 11: Stanley Elkin, 1930, novelist, The Dick Gibson Show, The Living End
 13: Armistead Maupin, 1944, writer, tales of the City
 13: Daphne du Maurier, 1907, novelist, My Cousin Rachel, Rebecca
 15: Paul Zindel, 1936, playwright, The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds
 16: H(erbert) E(rnest) Bates, 1905, novelist, The Darling Buds of May
 17: Gary Paulsen, 1939, novelist, Mr. Tucket, Hatchet, Dogsong, The Winter Room
 17: **Janice White**, [AWC](#)
 19: David Pownall, 1938, novelist, The Raining Tree War, African Horse, Beloved Latitudes
 20: Margery Allingham, 1904, mystery writer, The Black Dudley Murder
 20: Honore de Balzac, 1799, novelist, The Human Comedy
 21: Dante Alighieri, 1265, poet, The Divine Comedy
 21: Alexander Pope, 1688, poet, The Rape of the Lock
 21: Harold Robbins, 1916, novelist, The Carpet-baggers
 22: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1859, novelist, A Study in Scarlet
 24: William Trevor, 1928, novelist, A Standard of Behavior, The Old Boys
 25: Raymond Carver, 1938, poet & short story writer, Cathedral, Ultramarine
 25: Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803, essayist & poet, Nature
 25: Theodore Roethke, 1908, poet, The Waking, The Far Field
 26: Michael Benedikt, 1935, poet, The Badminton at Great Barrington
 26: **Joan Harmon**, [AWC](#)
 27: John Barth, 1930, novelist, The Floating Opera, The Sot-Weed Factor, Giles Goat-Boy
 27: John Cheever, 1912, novelist, The Wapshot Chronicle, Falconer
 27: **Walter P. Duensing**, [AWC](#)
 27: Dashiell Hammett, 1894, novelist, Red Harvest, The Dain Curse
 27: **Jack Thomas**, [AWC](#)
 27: Herman Wouk, 1915, novelist, The Caine Mutiny, Marjorie Morningstar
 28: Ian Fleming, 1908, novelist, Casino Royale
 29: **George Weinstein**, [AWC](#)
 29: T(erence) H(andbury) White, 1906, novelist, The Once and Future King
 31: Walt Whitman, 1819, poet, Leaves of Grass

Members! Do we have **YOUR** birthday? If not, call the Editor at 770-322-0606 or email:

AWCQuill@go.com or AWCQuill@yahoo.com

Officer list for the Atlanta Writers Club 2004-2005 term:

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

Contest-Du-Mois

The winners for the March 15th - April 15th Monthly Contest – Favorite Flower, are:

- 1st Place: **Thom Fallis** - *Bluebonnets, Butterflies, and Tranquility*
2nd Place: **Polly Neal** - *Favorite Flower*
3rd Place: **Adrian Drost** - *Passion Flower*

The top three winners for the Atlanta Writer's Club June 2003 - May 2004 monthly contests (this means they entered the most and got the most votes) are:

- 1st Place: \$50 prize – **Polly Neal**
2nd Place: \$30 prize – **Kathleen Boehmig**
3rd Place: \$20 prize – **Adrian Drost**
Honorable Mention - **Thom Fallis**

The winners of the Atlanta Writers Club Spring Contest:

Rhyming Poems: The contestants were to write a rhyming poem.

- 1st Place: \$50 prize – **Edna Hawkins** – *When Christmas Rolls Around*
2nd Place: \$30 prize – **Terry Strawser** - *Music Box*
3rd Place: \$20 prize – **Richard Anderson** – *One Child's Prayer*
Honorable Mention: **Terry Strawser** – *Fiery Pen*

Flash Fiction: Contestants were to write a story in 250 words or less.

- 1st Place: \$50 prize – **John Witkowski** – *Telegram*
2nd Place: \$30 prize – **Adrian Drost** – *Was It Rain?*
3rd Place: \$20 prize – tie: **Bernie Blanton** – *Amy's Dilemma*
Richard Anderson – *Hope's Legacy*
Honorable Mention: **George Weinstein** – *The Rendezvous*

Interviews: Contestants were to interview a famous person (either dead or alive) and write up an article for a magazine.

- 1st Place: \$50 prize – **Adrian Drost** – *Lollie Belle Wylie*
2nd Place: \$30 prize – **George Weinstein** – *The Long Walk Home*
3rd Place: \$20 prize – **Edna Hawkins** – *Interview with Margaret Mitchell*
Honorable Mention: **John Witkowski** – *An Old Vet Brings Battle of Camerone To Life*

One Act Play: Contestants were to write a one-act comedy play

- 1st Place: \$50 prize – **Thom Fallis** – *Writer's Night Out*
2nd Place: no entry
3rd Place: no entry
Honorable Mention: no entry

The Co-Prez Sez
Sara Martin

We, the Privileged Ones

How privileged we are to be living at this time, the 90th anniversary of our club. We are heirs of the years of effort that have gone into making it the special club that it is. We had a delightful evening at Mary Mac's Tea Room, dining together and hearing Kay DuPont's fabulous rendition of "Loving Mr. Lincoln."

What a treat it was to have Edna Hawkins, about to turn 91, deliver a humorous talk. She said that her secret to longevity is, "Just keep breathing." New member Terry Strawser proved that an attorney can have a sense of humor with his stand-up comedy act.

Thanks to Adrian Drost, our historian, who conceived the idea of the gala and kept our feet to the fire until it came to fruition. Didn't Adrian look handsome? (Perhaps I should say more handsome than usual). Thanks to George Weinstein, our chairperson for the event, who looked positively presidential! It was an especially joyful evening for him to have his lovely wife, Kate, with him.

Three of our past presidents came: Jeanne Osborne Shaw, Adrian Drost, and Mary Stripling, who supplied corsages for the president and past presidents.

Margo and Thom Fallis provided a romantic touch by celebrating their third wedding anniversary that night. It's good when two people find each other with whom to live happily ever after. Did you know that, although Margo has been married before, Thom had never been married? He was waiting for Margo, he says.

We missed several of those who have attended regularly over the years, especially our beautiful past president, Polly Neal, who was celebrating her birthday with her grown children (her 49th, I believe). We missed Walt Duensing, who said that he had attended the first meeting of the club.

The evening ended with an impromptu sing-along with our pianist, Michael Anderson. You know folks are having a good time when they don't want to go home!

As my co-presidency ends, I thank all of those who have worked very hard for the past two years—and you know who you are! Ninety years from now, I hope that the members of that day will be reaping the benefits of our hard work.

We'll see you at the May meeting when our new officers will be installed. Continue to spread the word about our quality club and invite people to join us in the new year in September. Spend your summer in the *write* way!

Atlanta Writers Club Contacts

Co-Presidents Sara Martin: 770-975-7980 & David Ryback: 404-377-3588
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Memb. VP Kathleen Boehmig: 678-393-9324 **Secretary** Teresa Gernazian: 404-636-8447
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Achievements Teresa Gernazian: 404-636-8447 **Poetry Editor** Dorothy Worth: 404-636-1316
Speaker Interviews: Richard Anderson: 770-992-8332

