



June 2004 Issue
Reflections and Looking Ahead

No Meetings: June through August

Summer activities will include:

- **Board meetings to determine goals and plans for the new year**
- **Encouragement of volunteers to help us realize those plans**
- **Putting everything in place for a stellar start in September.**

The Atlanta Writers Club, founded April 20, 1914, is a social organization to promote a more intimate acquaintance among past and present writers living in the South and to encourage upcoming writers for mutual benefit. In addition, the purpose is to promote and sponsor creative educational activities for writers; to train members to write and develop to their full aesthetic creative capabilities; to present open forums for discussion on topics of

PRE-MEETING SUPPER at The Colonnade Restaurant resumes in September.

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

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 their efforts!

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Deadline for the July e-Quill is June 25th!

Contact acting E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, gjweinstein@yahoo.com, 770-552-5887
Submit all Achievements & Accolades to Fran Stewart, myownship@earthlink.net, 770-682-7483

BOARD 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.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

Maggie Hunt-Cohn reports: On May 1, I had the honor of giving the toast at the 24th Jane Austen Gala of the Illinois-Indiana Chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America, an event I created, named and managed for the beginning eight years of the chapter's life. A group of about a hundred attended this year. My toast's text is to be on the web site of the Literary Round Table. The Atlanta Mensa group's newsletter, MOTS, ran one of my poems in March.

Jean Osborne Shaw served as the poetry judge in the National Lover of Words contest (topic: Water Ecology) for all 11th and 12th grade students in Georgia schools.

David Ryback had an article in the May 30 edition of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on his recent trip to Nuremberg, Atlanta's sister city in Germany, with commentary about its past and future for our commemoration of Memorial Day.

George Weinstein will have a non-fiction piece published in **O, Georgia!** in October.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR by Polly Hunt Neal

After several year's absence I rejoined the Atlanta Writer's Club in 2003. At the first meeting I was surprised to find a new version of the club. After initial pause, I soon appreciated the reinvented format---more intimate than the almost formal meetings I was familiar with. Even so, I missed some of the traditional touches the AWC had held dear for almost ninety years.

I have always been a sucker for tradition. It's so rare in these throwaway times, to be a member of something lasting and rich in history. On the other hand, change does march on and I'm sure there were members, even during my time, who were ready to put the old ways behind.

One of the best things I discovered were two very special members and I wish to congratulate and thank them for their outstanding service to AWC. They are Thom and Margo Fallis. I have been astounded by the wonderfully produced monthly "E-Quill," and "Quill Xtra." Both treasures. I can't even guess how much time and effort was spent each month producing such quality publications. Thank you Thom!

And Margo, contest chairperson: Her stimulating ideas, her encouragement and her teasing pleas for us to enter the many contests, (meaning more work for her) got many of us off our duffs. She made entering fun and fruitful. Thank you Margo!

Accolades too for those members and officers who kept AWC going. It has been wonderful to be back again.

Officer List for the Atlanta Writers Club 2004-2005 Term:

President: George Weinstein, 770-552-5887 **First VP:** David Ryback, 404-377-3588
Fall/Spring Contest VP: Adrian Drost, 770-998-7015 **Contest-du-Mois VP:** OPEN
Membership VP: Sara Martin, 770-975-7980 **Treasurer:** Kathleen Boehmig, 678-393-9324
Publicity VP: Lu Ann Sodano, 770-739-4749 **Secretary:** Teresa Gernazian, 404-636-8447
Quill Editor: OPEN

Other Contacts:

Historian/Photographer: Adrian Drost, 770-998-7015
Copy Editor: Richard Anderson, 770-992-8332 **Poetry Editor:** Dorothy Worth, 404-636-1316
Speaker Interviews: Polly Hunt Neal, 404-233-5174 **Achievements:** Fran Stewart, 770-682-7483

!!!PLEASE NOTE THE OPEN POSITIONS AND CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING A SMALL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME TO HELP YOUR CLUB AND YOUR PEERS!!!

ANTHOLOGY UPDATE

Adrian Drost and George Weinstein are collaborating to edit and produce Atlanta Writes: An Anthology by Members of The Atlanta Writers Club, composed of all contest prizewinners from the 2003-2004 Fall, Spring, and monthly competitions. This edition will be available for purchase in September and will make a wonderful gift or keepsake. Ordering details will be forthcoming.

PROPOSITION: CRITIQUE GROUP

Several of you expressed interest in forming a critique group that would meet in the midtown area, perhaps at or near Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, on a regular basis. The purpose would be to share your work with your peers and receive beneficial feedback in a positive environment. If any of you are interested in creating such a group, please contact George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com or 770-552-5887. Tell him:

1. How often you'd like to meet
2. Which days of the week are best
3. Which time periods are best (figure on a two-hour meeting)
4. Whether you'd want to meet before or after our regular meetings (i.e., third Thursdays)
5. What location you recommend for the critique group

**Poem: “OF THE BIRDS IN OUR TREE”
by Maggie Hunt-Cohn**

I crave an acquaintance with birds
I see from my window on their world,
They land, flick their tails, then
flit and fly my binocular’s view
as though they know they’re watched
and fear what I’m thinking.

Little ones, forgive my curiosity.
Just enjoy our tree, please.

**From the Tip of My Pen - A Writer’s Tip of the Month: “June Bugs to Avoid”
by Fran Stewart**

Computers crash when there are too many “bugs” in the programs. And our sentences can crash when we inadvertently leave bugs in our writing. Let’s look at some quick examples of common bugs that I’ve collected lately.

Grammatical Errors. I know we often say, “I should of gone to the store,” but the correct phrase is “should have gone.” If you write “should have,” your readers will *hear* “should of” as they read it. If, however, you write “should of,” half your readers will think you don’t know English. Remember that written English is more formal than spoken English.

Can you use “I shoulda gone to the store” to indicate someone who is not well-educated? Yes, you can, but dialect or non-standard spellings are very tiring when over-used.

Mistakes in Syntax. “I only have eyes for you” sounds perfect as the title of a song, but in written English, it translates as, “I have eyes for you, but my arms are for someone else.” In prose, the proper sentence would be, “I have eyes only for you.” It may not sing well, but it means what it says.

Syntactical errors often happen, too, with negative sentences, such as “All cats are not Siamese.” As it is written, this sentence informs us that there are no Siamese cats in existence. If we wish to state that some cats are Siamese and some are not, we would write, “Not all cats are Siamese.” By this token “All that glitters is not gold” would become “Not all that glitters is gold.” Some gold, after all, does glitter.

The Wrong Words at the Wrong Time. One reason the English language is so rich is its many homonyms and synonyms. Homonyms are words that sound the same, but have different spellings. Examples are words like bee and be; hole and whole; its and it’s; there, they’re and their. Synonyms are words that sound different but have similar meanings. Please notice that I did not say they have the same meanings. The diversity of English allows us to choose from an almost limitless number of nuances. Take the word *easy*, for example. We could substitute any of the following words: smooth, facile, simple, effortless, ready, comfortable, gradual, tolerant, or gullible. Although they each have distinct shades of meaning, they all mean easy—more or less. Good writers choose the word that most closely conveys the desired meaning.

Feel free to start your own bug collection. I hope, though, that the bugs come from writings other than your own.

Write It Like You See It: “My Pledge”
by George Weinstein

While summer brings furious growth and blazing colors to our gardens and landscapes, our club enters hibernation for three months, or so it would appear. In reality, the summer gives new officers a chance to plan the upcoming season of activities and spread our roots broader and deeper. Three months without meetings also give members time to reflect on what they want the club to do—and be—come September: how shall we blossom and what shall we bear?

Thus, summer is the time when we make grand strategies and dream big; it’s the time when we write down our wish lists for our 90-year-old club.

Here is my wish list: I want...

1. Members to look forward to coming to meetings again, to set aside the time to join together once a month and not let any other voluntary activity take precedence.
2. Membership to double in the next two years.
3. Members and guests to participate during every meeting.
4. Members to learn or rediscover something about some facet of writing at every meeting.
5. Members to clamor to fill the officer slots next year because they see us making positive changes and having fun while bettering the club.
6. Members to participate in the monthly and seasonal contests in far greater numbers.
7. Members to gather in greater numbers for our pre-meeting supper at The Colonnade or participate in a potluck meal at our meeting location.

Please notice the word that leads off each item. You are the reason for the continued existence of this club. The only reason. We don’t carry on because we made it to 90 and it would be a shame to quit now. We carry on for your benefit. If you do not gain, if you do not rejoin or participate, if we don’t recruit new members...then the club is finished and good riddance to it. However, I think we can get more benefit than ever before, and here’s what I intend to do to turn my desires into reality: I will...

1. Make each meeting lively, enjoyable, and educational. So far, I’ve signed up educators, a former Atlanta Falcons football star, and a tax advisor to starving artists such as we. I plan to invite Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter, Terry Kay, William Diehl, and other luminaries to fill out our roster for the 2004-2005 season.

(continued on the next page)

2. Lead an outreach program to churches, schools, bookstores, libraries, and wherever else writers congregate. We'll hold two-hour seminars on how to get started as a writer, how to finish a project, how to find an agent, how to target small vs. large publishers, pros and cons of self-publishing and print-on-demand, freelancing, and/or whatever else you want to help me discuss and whatever else our audiences want to know. We'll encourage novice and experienced writers and invite them to join our club. In conjunction, Lu Ann Sodano has agreed to be our VP of Publicity, a position I re-instituted to ensure that our club is being promoted in as many venues as possible at all times.
3. Schedule a session during our meetings to be led by a different member every month who will speak briefly on any writing topic of her or his choice and encourage other members to share their thoughts and experiences. Also, if you so desire, I will help create a critique group for club members who would share their work and receive beneficial feedback in a positive environment.
4. Welcome members to share their knowledge and experience and invite speakers who have the ability to teach something new while entertaining us. I want speakers who'll stimulate us to discover and write about aspects of our world and ourselves previously unknown to us, to open up whole new vistas for us to explore.
5. Encourage officers to attend every meeting, participate, and stay actively engaged with the club throughout the year. I want each of you to hear from our officers twice a year when they take a survey to make sure we're satisfying your needs.
6. Ask for your suggestions for the Fall and Spring contests as well as the monthly competitions. I want the topics to be general enough so that members won't feel too constrained to participate. I'll also promote the anthology that will collect every prizewinner's entry and will be produced with such high quality that you'll want to give it as a gift to family and friends.
7. Promote the original "supper meeting" concept of the club by encouraging you to join us at The Colonnade before the meeting and then drive around the corner to Rock Spring Presbyterian. Longtime members lament the loss of the supper tradition—it's not gone; we just adapted it to the realities of our new meeting space. If we get enough interest in members providing food, we'll hold a potluck supper in the church fellowship hall prior to our meeting. Wouldn't that be fun?

Again, you are the only reason for the club's continued existence. If you're not happy, then we've failed. So, please tell me your thoughts on any of the topics above or any other aspects of the club. I can be reached at gjweinstein@yahoo.com, via phone at (770) 552-5887, and regular mail (walk-ins welcome too!) at 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075.

Thanks for your attention and your comments.

Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club (AWC):

2004-2005 one year Membership Dues: \$30 per member (\$25 if paid by 9/18/2004)	\$ _____
Donation in the amount of	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Please mail with checks payable to *The Atlanta Writers Club* to
Sara Martin, 4946 Holborn Way, Acworth, GA 30101

- Dues must be paid no later than November 30, 2004 to remain active.
- Non-active members will be removed from *The Quill* mailing list.
- Current membership year runs from 9/1/04 through 8/31/05

Member Information: (Please complete this section in full to update our files.)

Name _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Home Phone _____	Work Phone _____	Birth Date (MM/DD) _____
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E-mail address _____

Sponsor (if any) _____

Tell us about yourself:

1. Please circle your three primary interests novel/ poetry/ short-story / humor/
nonfiction/ fiction/ juvenile/ travel/
drama/ screen-writing/ other
2. Please identify you experience level published submitted none
3. Please tell us how long you have been writing <5 yrs <10 <20 or >20
4. Please tell us what you expect from the club _____

Date: ____/____/____