



**July 2004 Issue**  
**Declaration of *Dependence***

**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 was founded in 1914.

We are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing.

We also sponsor judged contests for our members and provide expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

**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 WEBSITE:**

**[www.atlantawritersclub.org](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org)**

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**Deadline for the August E-Quill is July 25th!**

Contact acting E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com), 770-552-5887

Submit all Achievements & Accolades to Fran Stewart, [myownship@earthlink.net](mailto:myownship@earthlink.net), 770-682-7483

**WRITE IT LIKE YOU SEE IT: "Declaration of Dependence"****by George Weinstein**

Like our Founding Fathers, I will keep this declaration brief and succinct. My message however will be completely opposite to their claim: a declaration of *dependence*. Our club—our venerable country of writers of which you are a citizen—depends entirely on your participation. Without you, we have no club and our writers' sanctuary will exist no more.

In June I wrote to you about my goals for the club and how I'll do my part to realize these ambitious dreams. I asked for your feedback about these notions or any ideas of your own about shaping the club to serve you better. Three of you volunteered responses and I twisted some other arms to get more input: all expressed interest and excitement in the changes I proposed. Wonderful!

However, the vast majority of you have remained silent.

I need to know what you want this club to do for you. Do you want us to help get you published? Do you want us to inspire you with entertaining and knowledgeable speakers? Do you want us to provide fellowship and support for writing, a creative activity often misunderstood and/or unappreciated by family and friends? Are you willing to help with donations of time and sometimes money to accomplish these dreams?

The Atlanta Writers Club depends entirely upon you. And, paraphrasing the declaration of July 4, 1776: to each other we must pledge our Talents, our Support, and our sacred Trust.

Happy Dependence Day.

**OFFICER LIST FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB 2004-2005 Term:**

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

**OTHER CONTACTS:**

**Historian/Photographer/By-Laws:** 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!!!**

**BOARD MEETING RECAP****By George Weinstein**

Among my new policies is the publication of notes from our board meetings, so you know what your officers are planning for the club. The AWC board met on Saturday, June 12. All officers attended and participated extensively. While the following summaries are not the official minutes—Teresa Gernazian is composing that record—essentially here's what happened:

**GOAL:** Make each meeting lively, enjoyable, and educational. **ACTION:** David Ryback and George Weinstein are actively signing up speakers. David's recent coup secured our main speaker for February 2005: WABE 90.1-FM program director and host Lois Reitzes, known to thousands of faithful listeners of classical music on Atlanta's National Public Radio affiliate as The Voice.

**GOAL:** Membership to double in the next two years through community outreach. **ACTION:** Potential outreach locations and seminar topics were compiled. Kathleen Craft Boehmig and George Weinstein will create a draft seminar if other volunteers will assist them with their time and ideas.

**GOAL:** Members and guests to participate during every meeting. **ACTION:** Ideas for member-led interactive sessions were discussed, including What Inspires You, Breaking into a New Genre, and Effective Query Letters. We decided to reestablish the Calling Committee to remind members about an upcoming meeting. Regarding the Critique Group, three members have expressed interest so far.

**GOAL:** Members to clamor to fill the officer slots next year. **ACTION:** George Weinstein volunteered to draft a survey to be conducted over the phone to ask members' opinions about club leadership and direction and get ideas about serving the membership better.

Other business:

- Lu Ann Sodano presented a wealth of ideas to publicize the club meetings and promote our activities to potential new members. At our next board meeting we will prioritize these suggestions.
- David Ryback agreed to write the recap of monthly meetings, with Kathleen Craft Boehmig backing him up.
- Kathleen also agreed to draft a flier advertising the club, for members to distribute at libraries, coffee shops, and other gathering places for writers.
- Treasurer's Report: As verified by our volunteer auditor Richard Anderson, the club lost \$609.36 during the 2003-2004 term, due to one-time expenses to establish our website and host our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala. President's Note: If we incur no large expenses this year and our membership stays level or grows, we'll have no problem balancing our budget for 2004-2005.
- See "Creativity Contests" on the next page for some ways to stretch your artistic wings.
- Our next board meeting will be in August (date, time, and location to be determined).

### ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

**Sara Martin** spoke about her book *More Than Petticoats* at Mimosa, Atlanta's oldest garden club. She also gave a women's presentation to the Scottish Rite Auxiliary Group.

**Jeanne Osborne Shaw** was awarded the *Formal Prize* of the *Poetry Society of Georgia* for her villanelle "Days of Glory".

**Fran Stewart** spoke at a Gwinnett County library to a large group of home-schoolers and their parents about writing. The children ranged in age from five to sixteen.

### 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](mailto: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

### CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

- Volunteers needed to help George Weinstein and Kathleen Craft Boehmig draft the outreach seminar we'll use to educate writers in our community and to attract new members. Contact information for George and Kathleen is on page 2.
- Volunteers needed for our Calling Committee to remind members about upcoming meetings. Please contact George Weinstein to help us get the word out each month.
- A volunteer is needed to administer the monthly writing contest (Contest-du-Mois), which has been suspended until someone accepts this challenge.

### CREATIVITY CONTESTS

- The board decided that we needed to update our logo (currently ) to reflect a more modern, progressive club. This may entail changing the name of the newsletter too. Go for it! Please send your artwork and name-change suggestions, if applicable, to George Weinstein at [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com) or mail to 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075. Deadline for entries is August 1. Entries will be published anonymously in the next Quill for your vote.
- The board also thought that we might have a "7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch" after the main speaker each month. We need a sing-along to go with our stretch—"Take Me Out to the Writers Club" or something fun and appropriate. Please send your suggestions for lyrics and either original or "to-be-sung-to-the-tune-of" melody to George Weinstein via the means detailed above.

**FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN – A Writer’s Tip of the Month: “Word Puzzles”**

**by Fran Stewart**

Before the Declaration of Independence was created, the Founding Fathers of this country faced a dilemma. They longed for freedom from the oppression of the king, but they feared the repercussions of an open revolt. At the same time, each of them had specific beliefs about how the new entity they wanted to form should be set up, and they feared that they would be unable to effect a government that would work not only in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but that would continue to function through the following years.

They had not just one problem (how to gain freedom without retaliation), but two. They were faced with the second difficulty of forming a new and lasting government if and when they were successful in their revolt against the king’s might. Even if they had success in their first venture, there was a chance that it would end in failure. Even if we revolt and win, will we ultimately fail?

Other than the fact that this is the month of July, what does this have to do with writing? It’s the use of the word *dilemma*. This is an example of a word that has come to be used by many writers in a fuzzy cloud of guesswork. Whether or not to cook oatmeal for breakfast when one loves oatmeal but one’s spouse detests oatmeal, is not a dilemma. It is perhaps a problem, a puzzle, a quandary, or even a predicament. It does not have that essential quality, though, of having to choose between two (or more) possible outcomes, either of which may be dangerous, or at the very least disadvantageous.

Another case in which the fine shades of meaning are frequently ignored is the use of the word *mentor* instead of *teacher*. A mentor is someone who may very well be a teacher, but who goes beyond the usual scope of teaching. When you use the word *mentor* in your writing, you are implying that the person is a trusted guide or counselor. If you want a different word than *teacher*, try *coach* or *tutor*, *instructor* or *guru*, or even *educator*.

I suggest a good dictionary as a staple desk accessory for every writer. Even the simplest word in English generally has many possible alternatives. Your job as a writer is to find the right one to use. This is not a dilemma; it is simply a puzzle—a matter of doing your homework and knowing the true meaning of each word you choose.

**DON’T FORGET TO PROMOTE YOUR CLUB**

Remember: whenever you do interviews or speak in public, please mention your membership in The Atlanta Writers Club. This is yet another way for us all to promote the club and attract new members.

## PUBLICITY ON THE HIGH SEAS

By George Weinstein

AWC member Mike Buchanan and his *Micah's Child* co-author Diane Lang have embarked on a novel way to promote themselves and their work: cruises. This year they've done two seven-day cruises in the Caribbean. But they're not going as tourists—they're the "edutainers".

"That's what we've discovered," Mike says. "The people who book shipboard lecturers want folks who entertain as well as educate." With more than fifty years of combined teaching experience between them, Mike and Diane are well versed in the art of instilling information while keeping their lessons lively. Mike continues, "Besides knowing your material, you have to keep your shipboard audience interested. You're the distraction between ports-of-call."

Companies like Sixth Star ([www.sixthstar.com](http://www.sixthstar.com)) set up entertainment for all the cruise lines. To apply as a prospective speaker, you go to their website and submit a proposal. Proposals should consist of six or more topics about which you're an authority, along with references. Speaking topics (typically forty-five minutes in length) may be specific to embarkation points or destinations of a given cruise line or something with which to enrich and enlighten the audience. Mike and Diane chose nautical themes such as navigating by the stars, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Coleridge, and Adrienne Rich's poem "Diving into the Wreck".

"If the speaker representative likes some of your topics," Mike says, "you'll get an interview so you can display your ability to put on a good show. Once you clear that hurdle, then comes a much longer session where the rep challenges your ability to think and talk on your feet. He'll also quiz you about the visual aids you intend to use (having a laptop with PowerPoint is crucial) and your method of presentation. It's at least three hours of interviews. If the rep likes what he hears, he becomes your 'edutainment' agent."

The agent pitches you and your topics to the cruise lines with destinations that you desire. If the cruise line buys your services, you'll be booked as a guest lecturer. The number of speeches you give generally equals the number of days at sea. Compensation is negotiated with the cruise line. Once aboard, you may do a videotaped interview—a chance to note your publishing credits—that will play on shipboard TVs throughout the cruise.

"Depending on the time slot and topic," Mike notes, "we had twenty to thirty attendees in each of the three lectures we did on a given cruise. These were folks from all over America and, sometimes, the world. Naturally, you mention your book in passing and in conversations afterward. But visibility to a unique blend of people is the reason we do these speaking engagements, not to flog our novel. You can't be pushy and sell books out of your stateroom—they hired you to entertain and teach. When you're booked as a speaker, you become part of the crew: you always have to dress nicer than the tourists and make yourself available to passengers at all times, just like the people in uniform."

Though hits to their website do tend to spike after a return to the embarkation port, Mike doesn't dwell on any resulting book sales. Instead, he and Diane cherish the friendships they've made onboard and continue to cultivate. "We're meeting like-minded people we otherwise would've never had the chance to know. That's what this is all about."

## 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: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_