



September 2004 Issue

First Meeting
of the New Season!

September 16, 2004

- **First meeting of the new season**
- **Guest Speaker: Screenplay guru Michael Lucker with advice on creative writing for all media**
- **Introduction of outreach efforts to attract new members**
- **Our Turn: Chris Drake leads discussion on overcoming publishing hurdles**

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 host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

PLEASE NOTE:

PRE-MEETING NOSH: Potluck at Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, 6:45 - 7:15 pm. Bring your favorite snack! (We will no longer meet at The Colonnade.)

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

MEETING LOCATION: Rock Spring Presbyterian Church (Fellowship Hall in back): 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

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Deadline for the October E-Quill is September 25th!

Contact acting E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, gjweinstein@yahoo.com, 770-552-5887

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “Planned Spontaneity”
by George Weinstein

Some authors must create a detailed outline of their project before they can write a cautious “Chapter 1” at the top of the page. Others begin with a character or an idea or just one scene in mind and dive in headfirst. Writers may compose a paragraph and then rewrite it and tweak, sculpt and craft it until it is ready to be unveiled to the world. Then they move on to Paragraph #2. Many choose to splatter their first draft across the pages, never looking back at the previous word let alone the last chapter, until it’s done. Then they treat it like an awful family secret—to be shared with no one, not even those they feed or sleep with—and rework every last detail in Draft #2. Some need a roadmap, a compass and a GPS, while others make a left here and (what the heck) a right there and enjoy the journey.

Too much rigidity doesn’t allow for the inspiration that will make a project take flight, the sage ones advise, but following too many whims strands you far from your desired destination.

A writers club is much the same. If we err on the side of dogmatic inflexibility, we won’t have fun when inevitable surprises intrude, but if we don’t have a plan, no one can anticipate how we’ll grow and prosper. At every meeting, you will get a taste of both styles. We’ll follow a program: guest speaker then club business then a post-session I’m calling *Our Turn*. The guest speakers will bring their most polished presentations, but *Our Turn* will be entirely free form, a discussion that we’ll weave as we go along. Indeed, I expect some crazy quilts and at least one hopelessly tangled skein. If you come and if you bring your full stock of enthusiasm and character, we’ll also create sublime tapestries together.

See you all on September 16.

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!!!**

EXCERPTS FROM BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 21, 2004

The *Atlanta Writes* Anthology is ready for ordering. This 122-page collection includes all of the contest winners from the Fall, Spring, and Monthly contests during our 2003-2004 season.

George Weinstein and Kathleen Boehmig created a new AWC flyer to be used for membership recruitment. These flyers will be distributed to members starting with the September meeting; members will be asked to leave multiple copies at bookstores, coffee shops, libraries, and other writers hangouts.

George created a survey that seeks anonymous input from members about desired improvements in the club. Board Members will conduct the survey around the first of November.

George, Kathleen, and Richard Anderson have drafted an Outreach Seminar to be given at bookstores, libraries, churches, etc., as a means of encouraging fellow writers and recruiting club members. George will give an overview of the Outreach Program at the September meeting and ask for volunteers to help make presentations.

David Ryback completed the roster of speakers through May 2005. Adrian Drost will make flyers based on David's speaker interviews, for distribution by members along with the AWC recruitment flyers.

A Calling Committee, comprising Polly Neal and Board Members, will remind members of upcoming meetings. Volunteers are needed to assist them. George will send reminders to all members with e-mail accounts.

We will use a Guest Book at meetings to record visitor contact information so Adrian can send notes of appreciation.

To further enliven our meetings, we will have a potluck nosh to begin thirty minutes before our regular meeting. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite snack.

The Board voted to reinstate the Member of the Year Award. The winner will receive a certificate and free membership for the following year.

Updates to the website are slower than desired, so the Board voted to hire a new Webmaster. Proposals are being solicited.

Teresa Gernazian will provide a Letter of Appreciation to the guest speakers, along with a certificate thanking them for their presentation.

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.

AWC ANTHOLOGY FOR SALE – NOW TAKING ORDERS!

The *Atlanta Writes* Anthology is ready for ordering. This 122-page collection includes all of the contest winners from the Fall, Spring, and Monthly contests during our 2003-2004 season, plus illustrations by member Ruth Crissey. Please mail your check for \$10 per copy (plus \$3 per copy for shipping expenses if you cannot attend a meeting to pick up your order) to George Weinstein, 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075.

POETRY FOR SALE

From Kathleen A Mainland:

“When I did Spoken Magazine earlier this year I read some poetry from a book a friend of mine wrote. Some people expressed interest in buying a copy and he has sent me four. They are \$10 each. I can't remember who wanted them.” If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this poetry book, please contact Kathleen Mainland directly at kate144@juno.com or 404-320-6853.

2005 WRITERS EXCHANGE CONTEST

Poets & Writers, Inc., the nation's largest nonprofit literary organization, is proud to announce that the 2005 Writers Exchange Contest will be held in the state of Georgia. The contest is open to poets and fiction writers, who are residents of Georgia and who have never published a book or have published only one full-length book of fiction or poetry.

The winning poet and fiction writer will each receive an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City in October 2005 to meet with literary professionals including editors, agents, publishers and prominent writers, and to give a public reading. Guidelines and application forms are available on the Poets & Writers web site at www.pw.org or, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Writers Exchange, Poets & Writers Inc, 72 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012. Deadline is December 1, 2004.

CREATIVITY CONTEST- TIME TO VOTE

➤ **Name our newsletter!** Does our newsletter need an updated name? Please contact George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com or (770) 552-5887 with your vote. The poll closes at midnight on September 25th.

A.  A WC N ews

B. [AWC TODAY Newsletter of The Atlanta Writers Club](#)

C. **From Quill to Laptop: The Writing Forum**

D.  (no change)

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

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

Adrian Drost received the Southeastern Writers Association (SWA) third-place award for nonfiction and honorable mention in the Jarvis Humor category, as well as the Reverend Roscoe Plowman Southeastern Angel award for outstanding support, during the 29th annual SWA Workshop.

Margo Fallis' story "Love For Always" was published in Joan Wester Anderson's *In the Arms of Angels - True Stories of Heavenly Guardians*. Margo will have stories in two other books this year and will be featured in the October 2004 issues of *FIRST for Women* magazine with an article about a trip to Egypt.

FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN – A Writer's Tip of the Month: "School Days" by Fran Stewart

Did you ever have an English teacher who insisted that you learn how to diagram sentences? What on earth was the value of that torture? Do we have to know how to diagram a sentence in order to construct decent, readable prose?

It depends, I suppose, on whom you ask. Mrs. Van Aken, my senior English teacher at Mascoutah High School, told us that Hemingway could break all the rules because he knew very well what they were to begin with. If we know from diagramming what is a subject and what is a predicate – or so the argument goes – we will be less likely to leave one out. Hmmm. Depends on what the end result is supposed to be. The use of incomplete sentences (such as the last two you just read) may often be effective. As a writer, though, be sure you know why you are breaking the rule.

In an industry that relies on agents and editors, it makes sense to flaunt standard English usage and grammar only when there is good literary justification for doing so. Why risk having your manuscript redlined or simply rejected by someone who thinks you've made multiple mistakes? Judicious proofreading can transform a mediocre manuscript into a work of art. Get someone who's truly picky to do the proofreading for you. Ask that person to highlight every single grammatical error. It can be illuminating to see how many times you begin your sentences with the word *But* or *And*.

"But, that's the way my character talks," you object.

Is it the way your character truly would talk? Or is it simply the way you've been used to writing ever since you forgot how to diagram a sentence?

CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

- 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.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER INTERVIEW: "Lucky in Hollywood"

by David Ryback

Michael Lucker is a lucky guy. After deciding to leave the South for Hollywood and writing 100 letters with his resume to get a job there, who should respond but the great Steven Spielberg! Within a few weeks, lucky Michael was Steven's assistant.

From there Michael went on to work for Disney and ended up renting an apartment by the sea and spending his days writing screen plays. What a life!

But not for Michael. He missed the good ol' South and decided to get back to his roots here in Atlanta. Now he teaches screenwriting at Emory and continues to write scripts for movies, as well as play drums for a local rock-and-roll band. His most recent effort is a film called "Stealing Faith."

Come hear how this fascinating young man beat Hollywood at its own game and then came home to roost and tell about it. You'll feel lucky you did!

SEPTEMBER OUR TURN: "Something Big: Overcoming Obstacles to Publication"

Chris Drake will lead a discussion on how we can overcome obstacles to getting our work published. She'll offer her successful strategies and then it'll be our turn to ask questions and describe our own positive adventures on the road to publication.

PROPOSITION: CRITIQUE GROUP

Two members thus far have 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

FALL WRITING CONTESTS**Categories:**

Non-Fiction	maximum 1500 words
Short Story	maximum 3500 words
Juvenile Story	maximum 1500 words
Serious Poetry	maximum 42 lines
Light Verse	maximum 42 lines

Objectives: Provide encouragement, challenge and value to promote writing.

Eligibility:

Paid members may submit one entry per category.
Work must be original, non-published, and never have won a cash price or award at any organization.
Contests are open to current paid members with strict adherence to submission procedures.

Submission Procedures:

Must be typewritten on letter-size white paper in standard font size and character.
Prose must be double-spaced. Poetry may be single-spaced.
Submit only one copy; retain a copy for your own files.
Place Title, Category, and Word Count in the upper left corner of the first page and number sequential pages with title in upper left corner.
No Personal Name on the manuscripts.
Submit only one entry per category.
Manuscripts will be disposed of after judging and will not be returned.
Email submissions are preferred; send to addrst@msn.com in word format only.

Awards:

First place	\$50
Second Place	\$30
Third Place	\$20

Honorable mention cited at the discretion of the judges.
If fewer than 3 entries per category are submitted, the board reserves the right to modify the awards.

Deadline:

Entries must be in the hands of the Contest Committee by **November 18, 2004**.
No time extensions are allowed.

E-Mail to: addrst@msn.com

Or mail to: Adrian D. Drost, 500 Periwinkle Drive, Roswell, GA 30075-4328
Entries can also be handed to Adrian at or before the November dinner meeting.

E-mail entries are preferred to speed the handling process.

All electronic entries will be acknowledged via e-mail. If you mail your entry, please include SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) to receive acknowledgement.

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) _____

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: ____/____/____