



October 2004 Issue
Nothing but Treats

- Next Meeting: October 21, 2004**
- **6:45 – 7:15 pm Potluck Nosh:**
Bring your favorite snack and a brief work you'd like to read
 - **7:15 – 8:15 pm Guest Speaker:**
Creative writing professor Dr. Tony Grooms on how he makes decisions as a storyteller
 - **8:15 – 8:30 pm Club Business:**
Updates on outreach efforts
 - **8:30 – 8:50 pm Our Turn:**
Dorothy Worth leads us in limericks

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's Loudermilk Activity Center, 6:45 - 7:15 pm. Bring your favorite snack!

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

MEETING LOCATION: Rock Spring Presbyterian Church (Loudermilk Activity Center 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 November E-Quill is October 25th!

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

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: "This is Not a Holiday Column"**by George Weinstein**

As we enter the fall season, it's so tempting to write columns based on the evocative, image-rich holidays that are spaced as evenly as dominoes through the end of the year. I choose to abstain from this easy ploy. Sure, I could compare sending query letters to trick-or-treating in a very rough neighborhood. Thanksgiving lends itself to counting the blessings of fellowship and our gratitude for creative gifts and doing that which we love, but you won't catch me writing about it. Nor will I fall into the Christmas-themed nostalgia of surprise gifts from hitherto stingy editors and the shock of an unexpected coal-black rejection.

Rather, I wish to devote my October article to something other than the changing leaves as a metaphor for the inevitable, colorful end of a writer's productive stage which forecasts a fallow period of hibernation and weight gain. You don't want to read another perturbed parable about the hard work of one season yielding the bountiful harvest that we now reap. And I promise not to write anything about Paris Hilton (talk about scary!).

Thus, the challenge is to ignore all of the clichéd analogies and trite similes in an effort to convey the sublime majesty of our craft. The real power of words comes from their ability to transcend the pedestrian, the mundane, and the provincial. When you write a line that sings, you are rewarded as much as, or even more than, your readers; it demeans the experience to compare such a gift with a Halloween treat, a cause for Thanksgiving, or a Christmas present.

In the case of holiday themes, abstinence makes the art profounder.

See you on October 21.

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: David Ryback, 404-377-3588 **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!!!

MEETING RECAP: SEPTEMBER 23, 2004**by Kathleen Craft Boehmig**

Strong Start for AWC 2004-2005 Season!

Twelve members and six guests attended the first meeting of the new season for The Atlanta Writers Club on Thursday, September 23rd, a week after the regular meeting was cancelled as Hurricane Ivan hosed down Atlanta.

Michael Lucker presented his dynamic story of how he made his own success in the competitive Hollywood screenwriting industry. He then summarized his views on story structure as it relates to movie scripts and all other genres. He spoke about creating characters with whom readers or moviegoers can identify, about giving these characters depth by endowing them with strong desires as well as flaws.

Michael is a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker who has taught at the 2003 Georgia Writers Festival, at Image Film and Video, and as a professor in Emory University's Film Department. He plans to present weekend writing seminars in the future. We'll keep you posted.

Our own Chris Drake, author of *The Price of Love* and *The Gift of Love*, led a fascinating post-session on "*Something Big*": *the importance of developing a short summary of your book-length work*. She shared likely nuggets from, appropriately, the "TV Week" synopses of currently aired movies. We enjoyed a lively discussion.

Kudos to Michael and Chris for enriching our lives as writers. A big "Thank You!" to both of you.

We brought snacks for our 6:45-7:15 social "nosh", since we no longer have our pre-meeting dinner at the Colonnade. We had quite a delicious spread. Thanks to everyone who brought something to share!

MEMBERSHIP DUES PLEA**by Kathleen Craft Boehmig**

It's That Time Again: AWC Dues Are Due!

September has come and gone, and now is the time to get your annual \$30 AWC dues in. Please use the attached membership form and, to quote our president's plea for dues last year: "Swamp me with mail! Hand it over in person! Bind your check to a rock and throw it at my house!" Whatever you do, renew today!

PRE-MEETING NOSH: DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO READ?

Members or guests who wish to share a brief work they've written may read aloud during our 6:45-7:15 pre-meeting social. Please also bring any snacks you'd like to share. Elaborate treats are not required; a nice nibble will do for our nosh.

OCTOBER SPEAKER INTERVIEW: "Riveting Soul"

by David Ryback

A gentle soul who writes with searing force is how I would describe Anthony Grooms, author of *Bombingham* (Ballantine). His book was praised by the Washington Post as a "powerful resonant novel" and as "riveting" by Publishers Weekly. As its title suggests, *Bombingham* is about the intense racial conflict at the height of the Civil Rights movement. Tony has previously published a series of short stories titled, "Trouble No More," and a book of poetry, *Ice Poems*.

Tony was born in Charlottesville, Virginia. He studied anthropology in college but began taking more and more theatre classes, until he realized his true interest was literature. Now he teaches in the English Department at Kennesaw State University. As he approaches his 50th birthday, he enjoys rearing his 3-year-old son, Ben, with the help of his wife who is an administrative judge for a federal agency.

So what does the future hold for Tony? "Three novels in the trunk," he says, one involving an international look at Black Power exiles as they emigrate to avoid harassment at home. His theme is faith and redemption transcending the dehumanizing character of racial conflict. He also mentioned a poetry book about his travels in Ghana, Africa, and the city of Cape Coast.

When Tony comes to visit us, he won't be coming alone. About ten of his students will be along as well, to see what "real" writers look like in the flesh. Let's welcome Tony and his entourage with open hearts and encouraging words. Tony promises to read a bit of his writing as he shares his unique talents and "riveting" style.

I can assure you, this is one speaker you don't want to miss.

OCTOBER OUR TURN: "Limericks"

Following our guest speaker's presentation and a brief summary of club business, Dorothy Worth will instruct us in the art of writing limericks and help us practice. George Weinstein contributed the following example to demonstrate how much he will benefit from her tutelage:

There was a lonely woman named Byte
Who made up her mind one day to write
She learned the romance of words
Met an editor from Lourdes
And declared it was love at first sight.

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.

CORRECTION: Member Ricia Entrekin contributed all of the illustrations. Thank you, Ms. Entrekin, and sorry for the misprint. 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.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

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

Kathleen Craft Boehmig wrote a ten-minute skit to publicize a dynamic minister's upcoming visit to Roswell United Methodist Church. Church staff members presented the skit on September 15. Her story "Rocks and Restoration," previously published in the 2003 anthology *Lessons Learned*, is included in a new nationally-released anthology *Sacred Stones*, due out this November.

Maggie Hunt-Cohn's letter about what life is like for college grads was printed in Letters to the Editor in the *Vassar College Quarterly*. She is co-leading an eight-week course beginning September 30 for the Emory program for Retired Professionals, called "The Jane Austen Book Club."

George Weinstein will sign his story "Of Wheelchairs and Wings," with special education teacher Michelle Donovan, in the 2004 edition of *O, Georgia!* at Humpus Bumpus Bookstore in Cumming on October 16.

NOVEMBER MEETING PREVIEW

In November, our guest speaker will be "Mr. Falcon" Tommy Nobis. Among his many football honors, Mr. Nobis was named to the National Football League Pro Bowl five times as a linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons and, at the University of Texas, was a two-time All-American. After his retirement, he established the Tommy Nobis Center in Marietta to provide vocational services to disabled people. To date, more than 11,000 individuals have received assistance with rehabilitation and job training. Mr. Nobis will share the lessons in hard work, persistence, and pride that he has experienced on the gridiron and through his amazing work with those who overcome their disabilities.

FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN – A Writer’s Tip of the Month: “Three-Word Horror Shows”
by Fran Stewart

I saw the Ghosties, and Goblins and Freaks.
 We counted the Aces and Deuces and Treys.
 They cleaned their Pistols and Rifles and Knives.

Many writers use groups of three, simply because it can be an effective way to increase the tension of a phrase. Feel free to use such groups in your writing, but be aware of the *Rule of Threesomes*. And what, you ask, is that rule? It says that if you group three items together, you risk sounding like Dorothy and her friends in *The Wizard of Oz*. This all depends on the number of syllables in each item. Try reading the three examples above out loud. Try to do it without adding “Oh my!” at the end of each phrase. Hard to do, isn’t it? Think of “Lions and tigers and bears. Oh my!”

Now, how can you use your list of three items without losing your readers? Rearrange the words, so they don’t have that singsong rhythm. Change or replace some of the words if necessary. Like this:

I chose to walk outside on Halloween in spite of all the freaks and ghosts and goblins.
 We knew some cards were missing, but in order to prove it, we had to count the cards in every single deck, every ace, every deuce, every trey.
 The D-Squad was ready. They had spent the morning hours cleaning their pistols, oiling their rifles, and shining their knives.

In 1910 Edwin Arlington Robinson wrote a poem called *Miniver Cheevy*. It is full of threesomes, well-worded and never boring. Here’s one verse that has a double threesome:

*Miniver sighed for what was not,
 And dreamed, and rested from his labors.
 He dreamed of Thebes and Camelot,
 And Priam’s neighbors.*

One of the later verses goes like this:

*Miniver scorned the gold he sought,
 But sore annoyed was he without it.
 Miniver thought, and thought, and thought,
 And thought about it.*

This shows a different way of dealing with a group of three: make it a foursome! Go ahead. Sharpen your pencils. Scribble out some threesomes. And enjoy reading them. That’s right: Sharpen and Scribble and Read. Oh my!

CREATIVITY CONTEST- RESULTS OF VOTING

In the “Name Our Newsletter” contest, a plurality of members voted to retain the E-Quill name. Thanks to those members who offered suggestions and voted.

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.

POETRY
by Maggie Hunt-Cohn

UNDER APPEARANCES, THE FACTS

Lying in bed just before dawn,
I found myself suddenly small and naked,
swooping through our dark sky,
oriented always by the stars.

I was not alone nor crowded
by all the other baby souls.
We were clouds of cuddly bodies,
swimming weightless
in this open infinity.

There was space for all,
sisters and brothers.

While hurrying my way
on some busy sidewalk,
let me never lose this sense
of how life really is.

Poetry Commentary by Dorothy Worth:

In writing this poem, the poet has expressed a view of life that is not only different but also fascinating. The vision here is from a point of view that the reader would not expect: the poet is one with many other "baby souls," and they are all coming down together through space to be born as humans on this earth.

The final verse affirms what this sudden vision means to the poet, and expresses the desire to be able to keep forever the basic reality of life and its origins, while participating in everyday actions.

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

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 \$ _____

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 E-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: ____/____/____