



February 2005 Issue
**Looking Forward to
Summer and Beyond**

- Next Meeting: February 17, 2005**
- **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:***
Lois Reitzes, executive producer and host at WABE 90.1 FM, will discuss writing about music.
 - **8:15 – 8:30 pm *Club Business:***
Updates on club changes.
 - **8:30 – 8:50 pm *Our Turn:***
Help us assemble a “must-read” list by sharing your recent favorite books.

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 and a brief reading to share with us.

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

In this Issue:

Write It As You See It.....	2	Club Contacts.....	3
Pre-Meeting Readings	3	Speaker Interview.....	3
<i>Our Turn</i> Topic	3	January Meeting Recap.....	4
March Meeting Preview.....	4	Georgia Writers Assoc News....	4
Critique Group Opportunity....	5	Fall Writing Contest Winners..	5
From the Tip of My Pen.....	6	Achievements & Accolades.....	6
Spring Writing Contest.....	7		
Membership Renewal Form	8		

Deadline for the March E-Quill is February 25th!
Contact E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, gjweinstein@yahoo.com, 770-552-5887

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “A Vision for the Summer and Beyond”
by George Weinstein

As I stare out at glittering ice that weighs down every branch and extends from the eaves like bony fingers, I hunger for a change in the seasons. Winter in the South has always seemed like an oxymoron to me, and I want no more of it. I can't wait for "Hotlanta" to warm up again. So too do I look forward to our club heating up with changes that I hope all of you will welcome as much as the forthcoming blooms and balmy weather.

Our venerable club has experienced shrinking membership for some time, and, after a period of trying subtle ways to boost our ranks, it's obvious that we need to make drastic changes so that more members can congregate, and new people can find out about us and attend our meetings.

Significant changes will begin this summer. Normally, our club goes dormant at a time when the region is at its most verdant and many individuals have time to devote to passions outside of their jobs. We too should grow in the summer, in terms of knowledge and numbers. I am putting together a workshop and a seminar, both will be open to AWC members and the general public who might join our ranks. The daylong workshop will focus on writing craft; the seminar will provide information on how to get published in books and periodicals. Both activities will be held on Saturdays at the Sandy Springs Public Library, just north of the I-285 perimeter.

Note those details: the day of the week and the location, both are new to this club and both are significant for our future. As of September 2005, when normal meetings resume, we will meet on the third Saturday of each month, through May 2006, at 1 p.m. at the Sandy Springs Public Library conference room. The room seats seventy, giving us space to grow; restrooms are just a few steps from the conference room doorway. Meeting on Saturday afternoons will allow more of our current members to attend and also remove a significant barrier to attracting new members. The more northerly location will help us attract writers from the area of largest growth in metro Atlanta. Nearly every one of the people who attended our January meeting complained about the horrendous rush-hour traffic and several north-side guests who wanted to attend did not, due to the weekday nightmare of clogged Atlanta roads. After our May 2005 meeting, we will no longer subject our members to a Thursday night traffic ordeal, nor will we discourage potential new members simply because of tradition. The traditions I'm interested in are learning from and learning with my fellow writers; the day, time, and location for this fellowship are matters of collective convenience and nothing more.

So, as the winter thaws, that's what I see on our horizon. We'll make big changes and reap big rewards in terms of new writer-members and exposure to the new ideas they'll bring. We'll also get to commune with old friends who aren't able to join us at night. For some, this might take some getting used to; for others, it's the change you've clamored for. Together, we'll grow.

I'm giving you plenty of warning, to encourage discussion and prompt your comments. Please e-mail me at gjweinstein@yahoo.com, call me at 770-552-5887, or tell me at a meeting, such as the one on February 17. See you there.

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: Angela Harvey, 404-578-2002 **Treasurer:** Kathleen Craft Boehmig, 678-393-9324
Publicity VP: Lu Ann Sodano, 770-739-4749 **Secretary:** Teresa Gernazian, 404-636-8447
Contests VP: Adrian Drost, 770-998-7015 **Quill Editor:** George Weinstein, 770-552-5887

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

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

Members or guests who wish to read a brief work they've written may do so during our 6:45-7:15 pre-meeting social. Please bring your favorite snack to share.

**FEBRUARY SPEAKER INTERVIEW: "Words About Music"
by David Ryback**

Many of us look forward each weekday to morning classical music that sometimes eases and at other times propels us toward the lunch hour, all complemented by the melodious voice of announcer and commentator Lois Reitzes.

On Feb. 17th, the very attractive and charming host of WABE's morning music show will tell us her thoughts on writing about music, reflections on music from selected poets and writers, and her experiences with interviewing such public-radio luminaries as Garrison Keillor, David Sedaris, and Terri Gross.

Lois was born in Chicago and had considered a career as a concert pianist before she decided that sharing beautiful music with a radio audience was really her true calling. After arriving in Atlanta with her husband Don, who took a job at Georgia State as a sociologist, she approached WABE and was soon hired to do what she's been doing so delightfully for over two decades. She is also the executive producer of "Between the Lines," a weekly broadcast of author interviews, hosted by Valerie Jackson.

Lois looks forward to sharing insights about the nature of music and, by extension, that which calls to our creative spirits. To enjoy a charming evening with one of Atlanta's most noted cultural celebrities, please join us on Feb. 17th.

FEBRUARY OUR TURN: SHARE YOUR FAVORITE BOOKS

Several members have mentioned a desire to share favorite books they've read, or re-read, recently. Following Lois Reitzes' talk and club business, please share your recommendations with your peers. Remember: great writers are also great readers!

MEETING RECAP: JANUARY 20, 2005**by Kathleen Craft Boehmig**

Ken Foskett, author of the acclaimed biography Judging Thomas, painted a vivid word picture of his subject for the twenty-one attendees at the January meeting. Many of us were astonished to learn that Supreme-Court Justice Clarence Thomas lived in tenements in Savannah during his childhood, and was reared by his maternal grandfather, who roused him every morning before daybreak (“fo day”).

Mr. Foskett emphasized that his purpose in writing the biography was to keep the focus on the “man who’s been punted around like a political football”. Judging from his carefully objective but earnest description, Thomas is one of the most important individuals of our time.

MARCH MEETING PREVIEW: Spoken Magazine

An opportunity to share **your** original short story, poem, or piece of humor.

Eligibility:

Submission is open to current paid members.

Multiple submissions allowed, however the selection committee will determine which submissions will be presented.

Submission Procedures:

Must be typewritten or printed on letter-size white paper.

Prose must be *double-spaced* for ease of reading. Poetry should be single-spaced.

Submit one copy.

Place *Title of Submission* and *Your Name* in upper left corner.

Indicate if you wish to read your submission or have it read.

Please limit your entry to 600 words!

Deadline:

Entries must be in the hands of the Spoken Magazine Committee by March 11, 2005. No time extension.

Mail to: Kathleen Mainland, 1225 Citadel Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30324

Or send an e-mail to kate144@juno.com

NEWS FROM GEORGIA WRITERS ASSOCIATION

Geri Taran, Executive Director of Georgia Writers Association, announced today that the organization has engaged the services of The Oliver/Sorano Group, Inc., to handle its media relationships. The next monthly meeting of Georgia Writers Association in Atlanta is on Saturday, March 13, from 2 to 4 PM, at the Dunwoody Library. It is preceded by a ‘Writers as Speakers’ workshop that morning, facilitated by Toastmaster and AWC member Thom Fallis. Website: www.georgiawriters.org

CRITIQUE GROUP OPPORTUNITY

We haven't started a critique group within The Atlanta Writers Club, but the following is an invitation extended to AWC members by an existing group with three years of experience:

"Writer's Mentor" is a free critique group for writers of short fiction, memoir, essay, and novel. Join us on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month from 7pm-9pm. Ideal meeting facility near the intersection of N. Druid Hills Rd. and I-85. 404-312-9072, 404-762-5135, j1cooley@yahoo.com

2004 Fall Writing Contest Results

Non-Fiction

1 st Place	The Painted Table	Richard Anderson
2 nd Place	A Cornish Garden	Margo Fallis
3 rd Place	House Music	Kathleen Boehmig
HM	A Study in Courage	Dorothy Worth

Short Story

1 st Place	The Patrol	Dorothy Worth
2 nd Place	Something's Fishy	Margo Fallis
3 rd Place	Collateral Damage	Richard Anderson
3 rd Place	Compassionate Tree	Henry Close
HM	Gaffe of the Magi	George Weinstein

Juvenile Story

1 st Place	Yi of Little Faith	George Weinstein
2 nd Place	The Haunted House	Dorothy Worth
3 rd Place	The Hearing	Edna Hawkins

Serious Poetry

1 st Place	Triumphal Entry	Jeanne Osborne Shaw
2 nd Place	Reflections in 2002	Maggie Hunt Cohn
3 rd Place	Living Room	George Weinstein

Light Verse

1 st Place	Shaping Up	Jeanne Osborne Shaw
2 nd Place	The Gulf of Mexico	Kathleen Boehmig
3 rd Place	A Vase of Roses	Margo Fallis
HM	Waiting Room	Richard Anderson

FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN – A Writer’s Tip of the Month:
“Cutting Down Trees” by Fran Stewart

A neighbor of mine is in the process of clear-cutting his property. It doesn't seem to matter to him that he bought a house in the middle of a forest. He's decided to cut down every blinkin' tree on the place. He does not get my vote for the best tree-editor on the back side of Hog Mountain. His delete-saw is working overtime, and his judgment seems to have eroded (along with his hillside) into the creek that separates our back yards.

Most self-editors do not have his problem. We tend not to cut enough. Of course not. Our words are precious to us. Aren't they our babies? Didn't we linger over the choice of them? If we've struggled to put 75,000 words on paper, why would we want to delete thousands of them? Haven't I mentioned this very same thing in several other *Tip of My Pen* articles? Well, yes. You see, it's important.

I encourage you to write all you want to – every adjective, every adverb, every single word you feel like writing. I then encourage you to use your chain saw, better known as the delete key, without compassion for every hackneyed phrase, each unnecessary character, and all those confusing scenes that didn't ring true in the first place. Now, see what you have left. Are the bones of your story holding together without all that verbiage? Remember, if a story line is good, it doesn't need propping up. If it's bad, all the propping in the world won't disguise its poor quality.

The good news about all this paring down is that we can put it back in if our (paid) editor says something miraculous like, “This section is too much like a skeleton. It needs some fleshing out.” At that point, you'll probably put in better words, better descriptions, better characters.

I wish my neighbor could put back those trees that used to measure two feet in diameter.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

(Submit all Achievements & Accolades to Fran Stewart, myownship@earthlink.net, 770-682-7483)
Four AWC members won placement in the newly-released anthology, *Sacred Stones*: **Kathleen Craft Boehmig**, **Ava Chambers**, **Margo Fallis** and **Penelope Holder**. Editor Maril Crabtree will join these four authors for a book-signing in Sandy Springs on Saturday, March 12, from 10am-12 noon at the Phoenix and Dragon Bookstore, 5531 Roswell Rd. (1-2 miles inside I-285).

Kathleen Craft Boehmig and **George Weinstein** taught elements of historical fiction to the fifth grade language-arts classes at Davis Academy on January 20.

Carole Madan went to a Poetry Slam on January 9 with her son Rabi and presented her poem “Love Throughout the Ages.”

Sara Martin spoke to a DAR chapter on January 11 about her women's book, *More than Petticoats*.

Jean Osborne Shaw tied for The Monday Prize of the Poetry Society of Georgia for a sonnet entitled "Wisteria".

SPRING WRITING CONTESTS

Categories:

Humor (prose or poetry)	Maximum 1000 words
Flash Fiction	Maximum 250 words
Dialogue (scene consisting of mostly dialogue)	Maximum 1000 words
Inspirational	Maximum 1500 words

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

Eligibility:

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

Submission Procedures (FOLLOW EXPLICITLY):

Must be typewritten on letter-size white paper in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font.
 Prose must be double-spaced. Poetry may be single-spaced.
 Submit only one copy; retain one copy for your own files.
 Place *Title, Category, and Word Count* in the upper left corner of the first page and number subsequent pages.
 Place *Title* in upper left corner of all pages
 No personal name on the manuscript!
 If mailing your entry, include a 3x5 card with: *author's name, title, and category.*
Any deviation from the rules will result in disqualification.

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 received by Adrian Drost no later than **March 17, 2005**.
 No time extensions are allowed.

E-mail to: addrst@msn.com

Mail to: Adrian Drost, 500 Periwinkle Drive, Roswell, GA 30075-4328

Entries can also be handed to Adrian at the March meeting.

