



March 2005 Issue

Giving Voice to
Your Work

Next Meeting: March 17, 2005

- **6:45 – 7:15 pm *Potluck Nosh:***
Bring your favorite snack
(members: submit the brief work
you'd like to read to Spoken
Magazine!)
- **7:15 – 8:45 pm *Spoken Magazine***
hosted by Kathleen Mainland.
Members read short selections
they've submitted in advance.
See page 3 for details!

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 April E-Quill is March 25th!

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

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: "Giving Voice to Your Work"**by George Weinstein**

This month, we welcome Spoken Magazine, our own version of March Madness or, as others have suggested, The Masters. Just in case you thought I was an iconoclast, please know that Spoken Magazine is one tradition I think we should perpetuate unto eternity. I support this annual occasion because it celebrates our writing craft and the sharing of our work.

That old rhetorical question, whether a tree falling in a wood devoid of people makes any sound, can also apply to writing. While I believe that we write for ourselves at the most basic level, for our own entertainment and epiphanies, we miss an opportunity to enrich others' lives, and our own, if we never give our words a public hearing. In the case of Spoken Magazine, this "hearing" is literal, since we read our work aloud.

Giving voice to our words puts the power of language on display. When the author reads her piece to others, her choice of cadence, vocabulary, and the musical joining of complementary sounds highlights the experience. When we process ideas through the auditory route, we often focus on different, and sometimes deeper, aspects than our eye-to-brain connection reveals. Even when you edit in private, your work can benefit if you speak the text. Try this with any work you're writing: I guarantee it will not sound exactly the same way it "reads."

Please participate in Spoken Magazine! See the details on page three and get your entry to Kathleen Mainland by March 11. You may choose to inspire, amuse, or thrill us, or make us cry or swoon, but please share your work. Each of us will be richer for it.

I'll see you—and hear you—on March 17.

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

Guests who wish to read a brief work they've written may do so during our 6:45-7:15 pre-meeting social. Members: please submit your work to Spoken Magazine! See the details below. Everyone: please bring your favorite snack to share.

MARCH EVENT: SPOKEN MAGAZINE

An opportunity to share **your** original short story, essay, 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

If you submit an entry, please come to the meeting!

CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUP BEGINS ON MARCH 9

The Atlanta Writers Club will sponsor a new critique group at the Village Veranda coffee shop in Alpharetta. Current AWC members Kathleen Craft Boehmig, Mike Buchanan, John Witkowski, and George Weinstein will participate, and all members and guests are welcome. This group will focus solely on critiquing one another's work. The only rules are as follows:

- 1) limit of 500 words for piece to be critiqued
- 2) Bring at least six copies so others can read along and provide written comments

The first meeting is on Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. Please RSVP to the Village Veranda at 678-240-9202 so we'll know how many attendees to expect. The Village Veranda is located at 52-B North Main St. (Hwy. 9) in Alpharetta, on the same block as the Welcome Center. Heading north on N, Main St., turn left on Church St. and then make an immediate left to access the Village Veranda parking lot.

MEETING RECAP: FEBRUARY 17, 2005

by Kathleen Craft Boehmig

Forty AWC members and guests were present at our February meeting to hear Lois Reitzes, the melodious voice of WABE-FM's *Second Cup Concerts* and *ASO Broadcasts*. Ms. Reitzes has worked at WABE for 25 years, and has served as program director of the station since 1992.

Ms. Reitzes spoke eloquently of her passion for family, music, words about music, and public radio. She regaled us with tales of her children growing up around the radio station, and shared her primary interview strategy: let the subject shine. We were very fortunate that she generously shared her evening with us, and we welcomed her husband and mother as our guests as well.

The following are the resources referenced by Lois Reitzes:

An Equal Music, by Vikran Seth

The Unbearable Lightness of Being, by Milan Kundera

Alive Together, by Lisel Mueller

The Merchant of Venice, by William Shakespeare

Here are the members' book recommendations for the February *Our Turn*:

All the King's Men, by Robert Penn Warren

The Leopard, by Giuseppe di Lampedusa

Seven Types of Ambiguity, by Elliot Perlman

The Cat Who Went Bananas, and others in *The Cat Who...* series, by Lilian Jackson Braun

Reading Lolita in Tehran, by Azar Nafisi

Dear Senator, by Essie-Mae Washington-Williams

Plainsong, by Kent Haruf

The Known World, by Edward P. Jones

SIZZLING SUMMER EVENTS!

June Cookout

Would any member sponsor a weekend cookout in June, or volunteer to find a recreation center or other location to hold an outdoor gathering? Please contact George Weinstein at 770-555-5887 or at gjweinstein@yahoo.com.

July Writing Workshop – “Write In Style: A Crash Course in Creative Writing”

On Saturday, July 23, at the Sandy Springs Library, professional writer, editor, and instructor Bobbie Christmas will present a six-hour interactive workshop on creative writing. She will discuss powering up your prose, rewriting for impact, maximizing the marketability of your work, and more. Attendees can submit five pages for her critique prior to the class, to make the experience even more valuable. Please check this newsletter in coming months for more details.

August Seminar — “How to Get Published”

On Saturday, August 13, at the Sandy Springs Library, professional writer, instructor, and former AWC president Cecil Murphy will present a six-hour seminar on getting published. This acclaimed author of 100 books and speaker at 100 writers conferences will address fiction queries to agents and editors, submitting articles for publication, nonfiction book proposals, and even promoting your book once you've struck gold. Please check this newsletter in coming months for more details.

FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN – A Writer’s Tip of the Month:

“A Different Drum” by Fran Stewart

I bought myself a birthday present in January. It’s the *Simon & Schuster Super Crossword Puzzle Dictionary & Reference Book*. I happen to believe that every writer should play around with crossword puzzles, just because doing so helps sharpen our vocabulary—we all need to know the name of a South African fox, or the rivers that pass through Switzerland, don’t we?

While browsing through the book, though, I found lists of Pulitzer Prize Winners from 1917 on. Here is fodder indeed for us to ruminate in order to improve our writing skills. I’m not talking about copying another writer’s style (not that we could do it anyway). I *am* talking about broadening our scope of experience with ways of telling a story. How do other writers deal with dialogue, for instance? When we find a believable bit of conversation in a book, we can stop to analyze why it has such an effect on us. What language style was used? How long were the sentences? How much supporting speaker attribution (he said, she said, he commented, she asked) was necessary?

Now my *To Read* list is a great deal longer than it was a week ago. But I’ll be reading winners, and I bet I learn a lot from them. I’ll still walk to my own drumbeat. I’ll still write with my own distinct voice. But there will be echoes. Oh yes. There will be echoes.

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).

Ava Chambers launched a website for her books: AvaLindseyChambers.com. She’s been interviewed on WSST’s noonday show, participated in seminars and held book signings at the Dahlonga Literary Festival, and had several book signings in North Carolina. She has an upcoming interview with Jill Kelly on Kicks 101.5 FM.

Sara Martin spoke about her book *More Than Petticoats* to the Smyrna Library, the state organization for librarians and media specialists (COMO), the Town Center Barnes & Noble writers group in Kennesaw, and a teacher sorority in Kennesaw. She also presented *Walking Atlanta* to the Cobb County Newcomers Club.

APRIL MEETING PREVIEW

In April, we welcome children’s writer Charles Haddad, author of the Calliope Day series of adventures. Also, during *Our Turn*, we’ll perform and critique member Bill Black’s one-act play.

ANOTHER CRITIQUE GROUP OPPORTUNITY

“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

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.

