



E-Quill

April 2005 Issue
New Officers, Big Plans, Bright Future

- Next Meeting: April 21, 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:***
Charles Haddad, children's book author, will discuss writing for the younger set.
 - **8:15 – 8:30 pm *Club Business:***
Voting on officers for '05-'06.
 - **8:30 – 8:50 pm *Our Turn:***
We perform and critique AWC member Bill Black's play.

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 May E-Quill is April 25th!
Contact E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, gjweinstein@yahoo.com, 770-552-5887

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “When Push Comes to Shove”

by George Weinstein

I had an interesting experience during a long Easter weekend. I’ve dubbed it “The Good Friday Massacre.” As some of you know, I’m truly blessed to have a spouse who pays the bills while I stake out a career as a writer. She supports the household and my ego (as fragile as most writers’) with optimism and ceaseless encouragement. Bless her heart, she doesn’t even care if my novels ever get published; she only wants me to write and be happy. How could I have gotten so lucky? Well, it turns out that not everyone shares her enthusiasm.

Let me explain upfront that, in our nearly fourteen years of marriage, never have I had a conflict with my in-laws. In fact, of their three children’s spouses, I always considered myself the favorite and tried to do little things to secure my rarified position. So what happens when the King of the Hill discovers that his world’s turned upside down? Why, the mountain falls on top of him, of course.

After Friday lunch (actually, my in-laws are so old-school that they still call the noontime meal “dinner”), my father-in-law leans forward and says, “George, it’s admirable that you want to be a writer...”

“I am a writer,” I interrupt. Not a good start.

He continues, “But you wouldn’t go to Las Vegas and put money down on your odds of making a living writing. Your mother-in-law and I grew up in the Depression, dirt poor. You don’t know what poverty is like, going to bed hungry every night, not even owning a pair of shoes. Growing up middle class, you can’t handle poverty. You need to go back to the workforce and stay in a good-paying job before you get left behind.”

As I fume, my mother-in-law, always very supportive of any artistic endeavor until now, adds, “When we see someone we love ready to go off a cliff, naturally we want to say something.”

I want to say something too. A lot of things, actually. Instead, I keep a lid on my rage until we get back home, and then I write in a fury. Since then, I’ve produced some of my most intense, well-honed drama. If someone wants to motivate me, tell me I can’t do what I love. While I hope no one ever does the same to you, if such a sad episode does occur, may you find that it spurs you onward rather than sends you back to the corral for a branding.

I will absolutely, darn-sure see you on April 21. If you don’t know me on sight, I’ll be the one with steam coming from my ears and smoke streaming from my fingertips.

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

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.

APRIL SPEAKER INTERVIEW

Too late to make this issue. Check back in May!

SLATE OF 2005-2006 OFFICERS

Here is the list of officers proposed for the 2005-2006 term, which begins in September:

President - George Weinstein
First Vice President - Joan Harmon
Treasurer - Adrian Drost
Membership Vice President - Kathleen Boehmig
Contest Vice President - Richard Anderson
Secretary - Angela Harvey
Quill Editor - George Weinstein

During the Club Business portion of the April meeting, members will vote on this slate.

APRIL OUR TURN: HEY, KIDS, LET'S PUT ON A SHOW!

Member Bill Black wrote a one-act play entitled *Well, I Guess I'm Back*, which Kathleen Mainland, Nina Turner, and Jim Stevens have volunteered to perform. Bill would like us to critique the writing (not the acting!) after we finish. This marks our first attempt at formal critiquing during a club meeting. I hope everyone will find encouragement in this process and volunteer to share other work in the future, so we can all improve.

CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUP CONTINUES

The Atlanta Writers Club sponsors a critique group at the Village Veranda coffee shop in Alpharetta on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. The next meetings are April 13 and 27. All members and guests are welcome. This group focuses solely on critiquing one another's work. The only rules are as follows:

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

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 onto Church St. and then make an immediate left to access the Village Veranda parking lot. We meet upstairs.

SIZZLING SUMMER EVENTS!

June Cookout

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

July Writing Workshop

Saturday, July 23, 2005

Write In Style: A Crash Course in Creative Writing - \$65

Sandy Springs Regional Library, 395 Mt. Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

Only one percent of all books written get sold to traditional publishers. The odds of selling a short story or magazine article are better, but still dismal. Increase your chances of selling whatever you write by picking the brains of an editor with more than 30 years of book, magazine and newspaper experience. Bobbie Christmas has condensed her six-week creative writing course into a one-day seminar, and you do not have to be a member of The Atlanta Writers Club to take the course.

You may submit up to five manuscript pages (double-spaced, 12-pt. font, Times New Roman or Courier New, 1-inch margins) to Bobbie for critiquing prior to the workshop. **Bobbie must receive your pages for evaluation no later than July 9.** When you register for the workshop (see payment instructions below), you may send the pages by e-mail to Bobbie@zebraeditor.com (Microsoft Word or Word Perfect files only) or via regular mail to Zebra Communications, 230 Deerchase Drive, Ste. B, Woodstock, GA 30188-4438.

To register and pay for the course, you have several options:

- 1) Log on to www.PayPal.com, register your name, and specify that you want to send a payment against your credit card to Bobbie@zebraeditor.com in the amount of \$65. You will get confirmation of your payment.
- 2) You can send a check for \$65 made out to Bobbie Christmas at the address above. Specify in the memo section that this payment is for the July 23 workshop.

For more information, contact George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com (or 770-552-5887) or Bobbie Christmas at Bobbie@ZebraEditor.com.

August Publishing Seminar

Saturday, August 13, 2005

How to Get Published - \$65

Sandy Springs Regional Library, 395 Mt. Vernon Hwy, Sandy Springs, GA

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 writing fiction queries to agents and editors, submitting articles for publication, nonfiction book proposals, and even promoting your book once you've struck gold.

To register and pay for the course, write a check in the amount of \$65 to The Atlanta Writers Club and mail it to George Weinstein, 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075. Specify in the memo section that this payment is for the August 13 seminar. For more information, contact George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com or (770) 552-5887.

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

“Paying Taxes” by Fran Stewart

There are a lot of people who are convinced that taxes, like death, are inevitable. Then there are the so-called immortalists, who believe we ought to be able to kick the death habit. I don’t, however, hear any of those folks preaching about eliminating taxes. We pay these ubiquitous taxes in many forms—sales tax, property tax, income tax, and those special-use taxes that we get a chance to vote on every couple of years.

What are the taxes a writer pays, though? Keep in mind, I’m not talking about money here. Hopefully we’re making enough of that from our writing that we can pay the government its share. I’m talking about the non-governmental things that tax a writer.

Most writers I know work out of their own homes. Unless we can figure out a way to separate our work time from our home-time, there is grave danger that all the home chores will call us away from our pen and paper (or computer and keyboard). Ditto the family’s needs. Being interrupted by a toddler or called upon by a spouse who needs an extra pair of hands tends to tax our creative time. Of course, we always have the choice of ignoring the dryer that is beeping every five minutes, but that incessant reminder can drain our attention away from our writing. Sure, we can jump up, do another round of our chores, and hit the keyboard again. But how many ideas can we lose in the process of shifting gears like that?

On the other hand, how many people working in sterile offices would relish a chance to juggle chores and work throughout the day? What other profession would allow us to play at what we love doing—and call it work? I’ve decided to shift my thinking. Instead of feeling taxed by the chores that seem to pile up around me (I have to clean my desk off; I need to finish washing the dishes) I’m going to come to terms with my inner slob. I choose no longer to be taxed by those chores. If I am writing, I will write, until I’m ready to take a break and do whatever seems necessary for me to do. Obviously, if I had small children at home, those necessary moments would be more frequent, and my writing would get jammed into naptime or after-bedtime segments. There is, after all, such a thing as priorities. But I will no longer consider children/pets/chores a taxing element. I will pay them as necessary. And, between times of paying my taxes joyfully, I will play (excuse me, I meant to say work) at my writing.

MAY MEETING PREVIEW

In May, we welcome AJC reporter and author Charles Seabrook. During the club business segment, we’ll meet our new officers, thank the outgoing ones, and recognize our Member of the Year and others.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Vote for the member who you feel best served the club during the 2004-2005 term! Please submit this member’s name to our Membership VP, Angie Harvey, via phone at 404-578-2002, e-mail (angelaenore@msn.com), regular mail (108 Sterling Court, Alpharetta, GA 30004), or drop a ballot in the box at our April meeting. **Your vote is due by Saturday, May 14.** Only vote once, please. At the May meeting, Angie will make an award to the member who received the most votes.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

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

Former AWC President **Dr. James C. Bryant** has an article, "Organics Prosper at Heritage Farms," in the March issue of *Savannah Magazine*. He was also a major consultant for the GPB documentary "The Fabulous Fox" commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Fox Theatre's opening. Dr. Bryant was one of the narrators explaining the origins of the Fox.

Sara Hines Martin spoke on her book *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Georgia Women* to the Arts Group of the Atlanta Women's Club and to students at Sprayberry High School in Cobb County. She was also featured in the March issue of *New South Living* shopper newspaper.

Dorothy Williamson Worth participated in a Poetry Reading at Tall Tales Bookstore in the Toco Hills Shopping Center in DeKalb County on April 4th. She read five of her poems and answered questions from the audience. Dorothy continues to serve as leader of the Poetry Critique Group of the Village Writers Group, and is on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Poetry Society.

POEM: "ON CHRISTMAS MORNING, 2004"

by Maggie Hunt-Cohn

As our globe has turned in its regular wobble
that takes some sunlight from the North pole
to beam more to the South, I wake beside
my husband and look up through our skylight,

remembering we had more darkness last week,
but I'm certain that on my 87th birthday in June,
we will have earlier mornings, later sunsets,
and today's cold will have become summer warmth.

Last evening, we caroled our Christmas Eve
delight with friends and stayed up late, listening
to familiar melodies flooding joy from our radio.
I'm still amazed by this technology. It was a dream
I saw my brother make come true when I was five.

Radio was the telephone's child and then,
equally astonishingly, birthed video,
computers, e-mail, cell phones, and GPS,
which tells you where you are and how
to get where you're going.

An old fashioned windup clock just signaled
Christmas has come. We childless old folks kiss
and return to bed this morning, happy
to feel our years together simpler than the life
inventors keep remaking for us, and more unchanging
in essential flow than the wheeling heavens

