



May 2005 Issue
...and in with the New

- Next Meeting: May 19, 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 Seabrook, AJC columnist and author, will discuss writing about nature.
 - **8:15 – 8:30 pm Club Business:**
Awarding Spring Contest prizes.
 - **8:30 – 8:50 pm Our Turn:**
Adrian Drost will lead a discussion on writing for and reading to children.

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 (Final Meeting Here): 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 June E-Quill is May 25th!
Contact E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, gjweinstein@yahoo.com, 770-552-5887

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “Brand New”

by George Weinstein

Have you ever wondered about the term “brand new”? In past centuries, one recognized that an item was not secondhand by the date-stamp burned into it: the thing was branded new. Advertisers now use the term so often, and products are so short-lived, that we’ve lost the excitement of acquiring something just created. Now we focus on “reinventing”: our relationships, our organizations, and ourselves. (Some individuals want to display that “freshly minted” label so much that they brand themselves to demonstrate their newness, but I’ll save tattoos for another column.) Can a venerable club such as ours remake itself, to support the changing needs of current and potential members? A year ago, I didn’t know. However, with this, my twelfth monthly column, I can state that we have done it.

Five examples demonstrate our rebirth:

Take a look at the officer list at the bottom of this page. How many of those individuals were members a mere five years ago? It’s wonderful to have a mix of veteran and new members giving their time and energies to the club.

Join us on May 19 when Adrian Drost presents the awards for the Spring Writing Contests. You will witness an exciting blend of ongoing contributors and those who joined this term. New blood will keep the contests exciting.

Come to the June 11 picnic (details on page 4). Polly Neal, a former club president and a stalwart member for years, has opened her home to us. So far, the number of new members who plan to attend equals the long-time participants who have committed to join the fun.

Support the other summer events (see page 5). On July 23 and August 13, we will sponsor a writing workshop and publishing seminar, respectively, at the Sandy Springs Library. These are new opportunities, open to members and the general public, to expand our knowledge of the craft and the business of writing.

Enjoy the new timing and location of our meetings beginning in September. Meeting on the third Saturday every month through May, at 1 p.m. at the Sandy Springs Library, will give many of us a much less daunting commute. This venue will also enable us to attract new members who cannot or would not participate on a weeknight in the thick of rush hour.

These five instances demonstrate how we will continue to reinvent our club so that we can grow and thrive. Experience how we have blended the best of our venerable traditions with new ideas that will keep The Atlanta Writers Club fresh and lively. See you on May 19.

OFFICER LIST FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB—2005-2006 Term:

President: George Weinstein, 770-552-5887 **First VP:** Joan Harmon, 404-351-5691
Membership VP: Kathleen Craft Boehmig, 678-393-9324 **Treasurer:** Adrian Drost, 770-998-7015
Publicity VP: Lu Ann Sodano, 770-739-4749 **Secretary:** Angela Harvey, 404-578-2002
Contests VP: Richard Anderson, 770-992-8332 **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: Joan Harmon, 404-351-5691 **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.

MAY SPEAKER INTERVIEW

by David Ryback

Charles Seabrook is a soft-spoken, gentle man whose passion is writing about nature. He knew he wanted to be a writer at age 11. Now, in addition to doing a column on nature for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, he also writes books about it. The University of Georgia Press invited him to undertake his most recent project: *salt marshes of the Southeast*.

Charles Seabrook was the ninth of ten children, and attended a Baptist college, but left after one year to join the Air Force, where he trained as a medic. His father, in addition to being the local postmaster, was a farmer and commercial fisherman, which contributed to Charles's passion about nature. He's also contemplating a novel about evangelists, perhaps a modern-day *Elmer Gantry*. The real heroes, he explained, are not the cowboys who ride off into the sunset, or those who follow their whims, but those who stay and meet their responsibilities.

Charles provided the following tip for writers: a writer needs to have passion for the work, or the reader will sense its absence. There's so much more to this man of authentic and subtle quantities. I'm sure he'll share a great deal of that when he speaks to us on May 19.

MAY OUR TURN: SHARING WRITING WITH CHILDREN

Adrian Drost will lead us in a discussion of writing for children and sharing the stories with them. Please plan to add your personal experiences about juvenile storytelling.

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 May 11 and 25. 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.

JUNE COOKOUT – SATURDAY, JUNE 11 AT 1 P.M.

Polly Neal had opened her house to our club! *Please join us on Saturday, June 11 at 1 p.m.* Directions are below, as is a list of refreshments we still need people to bring. **Contact George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or gjweinstein@yahoo.com with the item you will supply.**

Directions to Polly Neal's house:

- From I-85, take North Druid Hills Exit Northbound. Thus, heading on I-85 North, you'll go under the bridge, come around the loop to the top, and turn right at the light.
- Cross over Buford Highway and get into the left lane.
- At fork, continue straight on E. Roxboro Rd. (North Druid Hills veers off to the right).
- At next light (only about 50 feet from the fork), turn left onto Goodwin Rd.
- Polly's is the second house on the right: 1242 Goodwin Rd.
- Park in the street or her driveway and proceed into the backyard.
- If you get lost, please call Polly at 404-233-5174

Remaining Refreshments Still Needed:

Note- George will contact you with the quantity of refreshment items to bring once a headcount is established.

<u>Item Needed</u>	<u>Name/E-mail/Phone</u>
Charcoal/Gas Portable Grill	_____
Charcoal/Gas Portable Grill	_____
Soft Drinks (Indiv. Bottles or Cans)	_____
Spring Water (Indiv. Bottles)	_____
Ice	_____
Tossed Salad	_____
Pasta or Other Salad	_____
Hot Dogs	_____
Hamburger & Hot Dog Buns	_____
Fish or Other Entrée	_____

Please bring a food or cooking item, per above, but we also need the following:

Musical Instrument for Entertainment _____

Boom Box & Music _____

Readings of Your Work or Another's _____

MORE SIZZLING SUMMER EVENTS!

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 two choices:

- 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) Alternatively, 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 Murphey 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:

“Maybe or Maybe Not” by Fran Stewart

Have you ever heard about a Do-Be-Have List? This is one of the most powerful tools in my toolbox of ideas, and I’d like to share it with you this month. I have so many people ask me, *how did you do it? How did you get your murder mysteries published?* And I have to tell them that the most important step was the first one, deciding that I truly wanted my books published. “Yeah, right,” I can hear you saying. Give me a moment to explain.

I’ve wanted to be a published author for dozens of years. But that wanting usually took the form of idle, wishful thinking. One day, several years ago, I took a workshop and learned about keeping a Do-Be-Have List. First, here’s how to do it, and then I’ll tell you why it works. Take three sheets of paper (or you can do it on the computer, of course). Label the first one ***100 things I want to do***. Then, start listing those things. This is not the time for self-censorship. You don’t think you’ll ever get a chance to go rafting down the Colorado River? So what? Put it down anyway. Write *Go scuba diving in Hawaii* even if you can’t swim yet. Or *climb Mt. Washington* even if you get out of breath walking to the mailbox. *Go on a walking tour of Greece, learn to speak French, make friends with my next-door neighbor, learn to play the harmonica, be with my dad when he dies*. You get the idea. Keep listing everything you can think of that you wish you could do. If you want to be a successful published author, put down something like *See my books on the bestseller list*. Another good one is *Win the Georgia Author of the Year Award!* Now go to the second page.

Head it: ***100 things I want to be***. Even if you’ve never shared a bit of your writing with anyone, you might want to head the list with *I want to be a published writer. I want to be the winner of the Georgia Author of the Year Award*. Keep going, listing all those things you want to be. Think ten years old. My niece at ten wanted to be a firefighter, a police officer, a teacher, a doctor, and a nurse. All of them. Oh, and a marine biologist, too. Whatever you think you want to be, write it down. *Author of (fill in the name of the book you want to write)*, for instance.

Okay, you’re doing well. Now, ***100 things I want to have***. Hot tub, a creek in my back yard, a deciduous forest around my house, a maple sideboard for my dining room (glass windows in the top where I can display my published books!), skylights, a bay window where I eat breakfast, lots of climbing posts for my cats, a loveseat for the living room, a wood-burning stove in the fireplace. Keep going.

I can pretty much guarantee you won’t get to 100 on any of these lists right away. But keep adding to them as you think of other things. And check them off one at a time as you accomplish them. I date mine, by the way. You see, we as writers know that writing is a powerful tool. So, why don’t we use it to move our lives to higher planes of accomplishment? This system works because when we write down what we want, we give a strenuous message to our subconscious. Reviewing the lists from time to time will help keep those ideas percolating. And you will be more likely to see the opportunities for accomplishment as they come up. Would you remember all those things you wanted if you didn’t have them written down? Maybe. Maybe not. This is not about forgetting or remembering. This is about making a personal statement of commitment that says—notice the capital letters—THIS IS WHAT I WANT. That message is hard to ignore.

FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN (cont.)

I don't share my lists with anyone, by the way. I don't want people to laugh at me when they read that I'd like to learn to play a tuba some day. But I just finished eating breakfast next to my bay window, looking out at the creek, which runs through the forest of deciduous trees in my back yard. And while I was eating I could smile at my two published murder mysteries displayed behind the glass windows of my antique hard rock maple sideboard, as the sun streamed in through the skylight above me. I don't have that hot tub yet. But it's on my list, and I'm pretty sure it's going to show up some day.

Do. Be. Have. Maybe it's worth a try.

Fran Stewart is the author of the Biscuit McKee Mystery Series. Her first two books are *Orange as Marmalade* and *Yellow as Legal Pads*. Her third book in the series, *Green as a Garden Hose*, is due for publication in the autumn of 2005. Her books are available from her website www.franstewart.com or on www.amazon.com.

APRIL MEETING RECAP

by Kathleen Craft Boehmig

This month, author Charles Haddad conducted an informative question-and-answer session, drawing on years of professional writing experience. Mr. Haddad, who teaches creative writing at Emory University, also serves as a journalist for *Business Week*. As well, he has written three children's books in his "Calliope Day" series. We appreciated his willingness to share his insights and knowledge with us.

During the *Our Turn* segment of our meeting, Jim Stevens, Kathleen Mainland, and Nina Turner performed the one-act play *Well, I Guess I'm Back*, written by AWC member Bill Black. Afterward, we offered suggestions to help Bill make the work even better. Good luck, Bill; as they say on Broadway, "Break a leg!"

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

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

Sara Hines Martin spoke on her book *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Georgia Women* to a Homemakers Club in Marietta in March.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

There's still time to 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 (angelalenoire@msn.com), or regular mail (108 Sterling Court, Alpharetta, GA 30004). **Your vote is due by Saturday, May 14.** Only vote once, please. At the May 19 meeting, Angie will make an award to the member who received the most votes.

Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club:

2005-2006 Membership Dues: \$25 per member until _____
September 17, 2005 (after which dues increase to \$30)

Donation in the amount of _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail with checks payable to *The Atlanta Writers Club* to
Adrian Drost, 500 Periwinkle Drive, Roswell, GA 30075

- Non-active members will be removed from *The E-Quill* mailing list.
- Membership year runs from 9/1/05 through 8/31/06

Member Information: (Please complete this section in full to update our files.)

Name _____

Address _____ City & Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

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: ____/____/____