



July 2005 Issue

Focus on the Craft
of Writing

Next Event: July 23, 2005

- **10:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. Creative Writing Workshop for fiction and nonfiction with professional editor and award-winning author Bobbie Christmas at the Sandy Springs Library. See page 3 for details. Sign up now and get a free critique from Bobbie on five pages of your work!**

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:

We have special one-time workshops scheduled on July 23 and August 13 (see page 3). Our next official meeting is on Saturday, September 17 at 1 p.m. at the Sandy Springs Library.

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

NEW MEETING LOCATION: Sandy Springs Regional Library Meeting Room: 395 Mount Vernon Highway, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. (404) 303-6130. The library is one mile north of I-285 and west of GA 400. For a detailed directions, see our website or <http://mapsonus.switchboard.com>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.atlantawritersclub.org

2005-2006 Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings:

**July 23, 2005 (Creative Writing Workshop)
August 13, 2005 (Getting Published Seminar)
September 17, 2005
October 15, 2005
November 19, 2005
December 17, 2005**

**January 21, 2006
February 18, 2006
March 18, 2006
April 15, 2006
May 20, 2006**

Deadline for the August E-Quill is July 25th!

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

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “Returning Our Focus to Writing”
by George Weinstein

In June, we started what I hope will become a new tradition: the summer club picnic. Thirty people, including friends and family members, joined together at Polly and Henry Neal’s beautiful home. We dined on great food and feasted our eyes on Polly’s extraordinary art. Folks had so much fun that we’re already talking about an autumn get-together.

This month, we shift our focus from a few hours of socializing to spending a day on the craft of writing—for both fiction and nonfiction. I highly recommend the creative writing workshop hosted by Bobbie Christmas on July 23. Bobbie lives a dream many of us have: she makes her living by writing and editing. Anyone who can feed herself based on her ability to put the best words in the proper order deserves our attention. Not only can Bobbie write, but she can teach too. Her new book *Write In Style* has already garnered several awards.

Join us on July 23 and learn how to stay in the flow of your prose. Learn what to delete to make your work stronger. Learn to avoid the most common writing errors. Discover the tricks of the trade. Receive answers to all of the questions you want to ask a professional editor. Increase your chances of selling what you write. And, if you sign up now and get five pages of your work to Bobbie by July 9, you’ll receive a free critique!

Traditionally, our club hibernates in a dark cave during the summer. I want us to get out, join together, and become better writers. I also want more of us to enjoy the fruits of our labors. The July 23 workshop and our August 13 seminar on getting published were established to assist you in realizing your dreams. To benefit, you need to participate. Please see page 3 for details on how to register for both of these beneficial programs.

See you on July 23.

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, 770-830-6131 **Quill Editor:** George Weinstein, 770-552-5887

OTHER CONTACTS:

Historian/Photographer/By-Laws: Adrian Drost, 770-998-7015
Copy Editor: Richard Anderson, 770-830-6131 **Poetry Editor:** Dorothy Worth, 404-636-1316
Speaker Interviews: Joan Harmon, 404-351-5691 **Achievements:** Fran Stewart, 770-682-7483

SIZZLING SUMMER EVENTS!

July Writing Workshop

Saturday, July 23, 2005, 10:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. (with a one-hour break for lunch)

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, fiction or nonfiction, 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, 10:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. (with a one-hour break for lunch)

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:

“Heat” by Fran Stewart

Stultifying. Don't you love that word? It means a lot of different things, but I'm referring to the sense of reducing one to the point of futility. That's what too much heat tends to do to me in July and August and September. I still need to write, though. I simply can't justify taking off one-fourth of the year.

So, how do I overcome the stultifying effect of this heat, without simply turning down the thermostat on the air conditioner? (I dislike freezing as much as burning up.) I have two sure-fire remedies. First, I pay attention to deadlines. Deadlines cause action, despite the heat, despite the stupor of my brain, despite my longing to sink into a cool mud puddle (if I could find one) and keep the hogs company. I can carp all I want about writer's block and lack of inspiration and a paucity of ideas. But when push comes to shove (yes, I've even devolved into using clichés, as you can see), a looming deadline awakens a faint spark of life in most writers' minds.

The funny thing is that once I sit down and start putting words on paper, the blocks seem to dissolve. Oh, I often throw out the first three or four things I write—I self-edit like crazy—but the simple act of writing stirs a writer's blood. This is *what we do*, after all.

So here's my tip of the month for dealing with the stultification of mid-summer. When the heat of a deadline is on, pick up your pen and put the tip of it to the paper. The ideas might start as simply a dribble, but pretty soon they'll be flowing. I guarantee it.

Oh, the second sure-fire idea? Drink more water. It keeps the blood in your brain from congealing. How's that for a scientific reason?

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

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

Kathleen Craft Boehmig's story "Rocks and Restoration", which has been published in two previous anthologies, has been selected to appear in *Chicken Soup for the Grandma's Soul*, due out in August.

Sara Hines Martin spoke to the Cobb/Marietta Retired Educators Assoc. and in Dahlonega about her book *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Georgia Women*. She is being included in the 2005 edition of the Dictionary of International Biography, thirty-second edition, published in England.

Fran Stewart's second mystery novel, *Yellow as Legal Pads*, won the 2005 Independently Published Fiction award at the Georgia Author of the Year program.

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 July 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

The Village Veranda (678-240-9202) 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF JUNE BOARD MEETING

Here's a quick recap of our board members' plans for the upcoming term:

- 1) Continue to attract top speakers, including authors, poets, and educators. Note: First VP Joan Harmon has already signed up a Halloween treat. Horror writer James Moore will speak to our club on October 15!
- 2) Set some months aside for winners of past Fall and Spring Writing Contests to read and discuss their winning entries.
- 3) Present our program, "The Will and Wherewithal to Write," at the September 17 meeting for suggestions. We plan to give this one-hour workshop at local bookstores, libraries, and other locations to encourage new writers, to give back to Atlanta communities, and to advertise our club to the general public.
- 4) Assemble a new anthology: either use the 2004-2006 Fall and Spring Writing Contests, or solicit each member's single best work for inclusion in a bound compendium.
- 5) Next board meeting: August 13. Please submit any questions or concerns you'd like the board to address to George Weinstein at (770) 552-5887 or gjweinstein@yahoo.com.

TREASURY REPORT

by Kathleen Craft Boehmig

August 2004 ending balance:	\$2678.52
Withdrawals, Sept.04 – April 05:	\$2424.59
Deposits, Sept. 04 – April 05:	\$1559.00
Ending balance, May 19, 2005:	\$1602.88

Note: Most significant expenditures were website creation and maintenance, contest payouts, and E-Quill mailings.

DUES ARE DUE

From what you see above, it's clear that we need your money to keep this club viable! Please go to the last page, complete the membership form, and send in your check for the 2005-2006 term. The membership dues include a discount until September, so you'll save \$5 if you join now. Donations to offset the costs of contests, our website, and special events are also appreciated.

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: ____/____/____