



August 2005 Issue

The Pause That Refreshes

Next Event: September 17, 2005

- **1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Our first meeting of the new term, at our new location.**

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:

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, look inside this issue, view our website, or try <http://mapsonus.switchboard.com>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.atlantawritersclub.org

2005-2006 Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings (1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.):

September 17, 2005

February 18, 2006

October 15, 2005

March 18, 2006

November 19, 2005

April 15, 2006

December 17, 2005

May 20, 2006

January 21, 2006

Deadline for the September E-Quill is August 25th

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

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “Take a Breath”

by George Weinstein

Twenty-one individuals attended the creative writing workshop hosted by Bobbie Christmas on July 23. Only three club members signed up, which is a good news-bad news scenario. I'd hoped to interest more of our regulars in this activity, but we now have another large pool from which to attract writers and new friends. As ever, I want to broaden our membership with even more diversity and talent. A strong base of individuals who want to continue to improve their skills inspires the leadership to sign up the most helpful, inspirational speakers and give you the best value for your dues.

Before we undertake another busy term for The Atlanta Writers Club, let's rest a moment and find some deep shade. The temperature turned from balmy to brutal overnight. We now experience daily, sweaty reminders of how summer helped to give "Hotlanta" its nickname. Time to take a long breath before we plunge into another term of fascinating, challenging discussions on the art and business of writing.

You will find breath at the center of everything—not only life, but creativity as well. Some of us achieve our best writing under the gun; these adrenaline junkies benefit from greedy gulps of air while racing to beat a deadline. Others conjure poetry and craft their prose at a peaceful pace, one voluptuous breath at a time.

So take a moment, here at the start of this paragraph, to fill your lungs. Hold in your breath a moment. Swim in it. Let yourself descend to its depths. When you release the life-giving air, allow the molecules to drift toward the exit and permit them to linger like guests who are reluctant to leave a swell party. Remember to take these mindful breaths before you start a new project, while in the midst of creating scenes from the ether, and as a way to savor the end of that journey.

In the spirit of easing into our new term, the board has decided to forego the August 13 seminar on getting published. Cec Murphey will address the club at a later date, and then we'll reschedule his daylong presentation. However, for those of you with work in progress and a desire for feedback, we will continue to host the critique group at the Village Veranda in Alpharetta on August 10th and 24th. After all, I'm encouraging you to relax—not cease and desist altogether!

I wish you a restful August. May you soon realize your grandest and meekest ambitions.

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!

NOTE: The publishing seminar scheduled for August 13 has been cancelled. However, we're pleased to inform you about this upcoming writing conference:

Rep&Rev StoryLabs Writers Conference 2005

August 25 – 28

Co-sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Society

Spruill Center for the Arts

**5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, Georgia**

www.spruillarts.org

770-394-3447 x 0

Take a course in playwriting, the novel, the craft of poetry, the poetry manuscript, marketing for writers or poetry as performance. Local instructors will offer four days of writing workshops.

PLANNED EVENTS:

- **Opening Reception:** Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
- **Workshops (see below):** Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- **Friday Faculty Reading:** 7 p.m.
- **Saturday Speaker:** TBA: 7 p.m.
- **Sunday Roundtable:** "Poet-ing in the 21st Century": 10:00 a.m.

WORKSHOPS:

“WRITE THE PLAY”: Instructor: Addae Moon

“PERFORMING THE POEM: Instructor: M. Ayodele Heath & Alice Lovelace

“MARKETING FOR WRITERS”: Instructor: Collin Kelley

“THE POWER OF THE IMAGE”: Instructor: Amy Pence

“POETRY IN FORMS”: Instructor: Steven Owen Shields

“ORGANIZING POEMS FOR A MANUSCRIPT”: Instructor: Cheryl Floyd-Miller

Complete information is available at

http://www.spruillarts.org/Courses/Special%20Workshops.htm#Writing_Workshop

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

“Compost” by Fran Stewart

I spent today helping a friend of mine build a two-section compost bin. In the process, I learned a lot about the way my mind works. Last night I sat down with a pencil and a paper napkin and sketched out the top and side views, so I'd know how I wanted it to go together, how many 2x6s we'd need, and where the nails went. This morning, although I started by looking at my sketch, I realized that I didn't need it. The compost bin was already built inside my head. I could *see* the finished product.

As a writer, I'd like to say that the process of writing is just as simple. Sketch out the general plot, list the characters, figure out their motivations, and *see* the finished result. Then simply write it. Right? Wrong.

The vital difference between a compost bin made of wood and wire and nails, and a novel made of paper and ink is that the people in the story have a way of hopping up from the outline and heading off into strange tangents, rather as if one were building with living kudzu that keeps springing new leaves or growing three feet before the next nail goes in. In *Yellow as Legal Pads*, my last book, I'd written three-fourths of it before I even knew who the dead body was. Unlike wood and nails, the kudzu-like characters have a way of surprising us.

When we build a compost pile, we need to layer green stuff (like grass clippings and cucumber peels) with brown stuff (like dead leaves, dirt, and coffee grounds). Then the earthworms go to work and the chemical action of decomposition heats up the pile. The result is amazingly fertile soil. In our books, we need the brown stuff, which is the nitty-gritty work, the sketchy outline, the effort of putting it all down on paper. But we also need the green ideas, the twists of plot as our characters surprise us. Then, when the earthworms get to work digesting (rewriting) the whole mess, it somehow turns into the rich soil we were looking for in the first place.

Today, as you are writing, try to imagine the compost pile you're building. Build those layers. And don't forget the earthworms.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

(Submit all Achievements & Accolades to Fran Stewart, myownship@earthlink.net, 770-682-7483)
Mary Stripling's poem, "Watercolor Mystery," won Second Place in the "Smith Moseley Poetry Contest" at Southeastern Writers Association this summer.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING REMINDER

Please submit any questions or concerns you'd like the board to address to George Weinstein at (770) 552-5887 or gjweinstein@yahoo.com prior to August 27.

*****DUES ARE DUE*****

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.

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 from 7 to 9 p.m. The next meetings are August 10 and 24. 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
- 3) Arrive on time and sign up, since only eight people can share their work on a given night

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.

DIRECTIONS TO SANDY SPRINGS LIBRARY

Don't forget that we will meet on the third Saturday of each month, beginning in September, at the Sandy Springs Library Meeting Room at 1 p.m. There are many ways to reach our new meeting location:

From NORTH of the Branch

- *via Roswell Road*

Turn left onto Mt. Vernon Highway. Stay in the leftmost lane as you go through two traffic lights, since the right lane will veer off at Johnson Ferry Road. After the split with Johnson Ferry, the library is on the right.

- *via Georgia 400*

Exit Abernathy Road, bearing right. Turn left at the first light, Barfield Road. Travel up Barfield to the first light, turn right on Mt. Vernon Highway. Go through the next traffic light and watch for the library on the left at 395 Mt. Vernon Highway.

From SOUTH of the Branch

- *from Buckhead via Roswell Road*

Travel about 8 miles on Roswell Road; cross over I- 285. continue 3/4 mile to Mt. Vernon, turn right. Stay in the leftmost lane as you go through two traffic lights, since the right lane will veer off at Johnson Ferry Road. After the split with Johnson Ferry, the library is on the right.

- *via Georgia 400*

Exit at the Glenridge Connector exit, turn left. Travel north on Glenridge to Mt. Vernon Highway (traffic light), turn left. Travel down Mt. Vernon; the library is on your left.

- *via I-285*

Exit at Roswell Road and head north. Drive north ¾ mile to Mt. Vernon Highway and turn right. Stay in the leftmost lane as you go through two traffic lights, since the right lane will veer off at Johnson Ferry Road. After the split with Johnson Ferry, the library is on the right.

From WEST of the Branch

- *via Johnson Ferry Road*

Travel east toward Roswell Road. Before you reach Roswell Road, you will encounter the library on your right. If you reach the intersection with Mt. Vernon Highway, you can turn right and enter the library parking lot (again on your right) from that road as well.

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

- Unpaid members will be removed from *The E-Quill* mailing list.
- 2005 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: ____/____/____