



September 2005 Issue

Great Start to a
New Term

First Meeting: September 17, 2005

- **1:00 – 1:15 p.m. Potluck Nosh:**
Bring your favorite snack.
- **1:15 – 1:30 Share Your Writing:**
Read a short work.
- **1:30 – 2:15 Guest Speaker:**
Bob Lancer, author and radio host, will explain how to boost your creativity.
- **2:15 – 2:30 Club Business:**
Boosting our membership.
- **2:30 – 3:00 Our Turn:**
Past contest winner Buzz Bernard reads his work and discusses the writing process.

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. in the Sandy Springs Library Meeting Room.

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 go to <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** Bob Lancer, radio personality and motivational speaker on creativity
- **October 15, 2005** James A. Moore, horror writer
- **November 19, 2005** Bill Starr, director of the Georgia Center for the Book
- **December 17, 2005** Shelia P. Moses, award-winning novelist and biographer
- **January 21, 2006** Peter Bowerman, freelance writer and motivational speaker
- **February 18, 2006** Laurie Abkemeier, nonfiction literary agent for DeFiore & Company
- **March 18, 2006** Spoken Magazine (members read their works) hosted by Kathleen Mainland
- **April 15, 2006** TBA
- **May 20, 2006** TBA

Deadline for the October E-Quill is September 25th

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

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “The Great Experiment”**by George Weinstein, President**

This month, we will see whether our great experiment—changing our traditional meeting day, time, and location—will have its intended result. New members might be interested to know that, prior to this term, The Atlanta Writers Club met for over ninety years on Thursday evenings in the downtown/midtown area of Atlanta. Given the profound changes in our lives brought on by longer workdays, suburban growth, and onerous traffic, our long-time tradition became a burden for most of our members. Shifting our meeting time to the third Saturday of each month at 1 p.m., and moving our location to Sandy Springs to accommodate the growing number of active members who live in the northern suburbs, should yield higher turnouts at our meetings and more participation. Only your attendance will prove our hypothesis.

In addition to moving the meetings to a commuter-friendly day, time, and location, how else are we going to attract you and other current or potential members? As always, we will feature a great lineup of speakers. Please see page 3 for First VP Joan Harmon’s interview with our September speaker Bob Lancer. Bob’s enthusiastic approach to boosting your creativity will make you so eager to write that you won’t be able to wait until you get home—you’ll be scribbling on the car dashboard. The first page of this issue lists the other speakers Joan has signed up so far, including horror writer James A. Moore for a ghoulish Halloween talk and acclaimed author Shelia P. Moses whose novel *The Legend of Buddy Bush* has won Civil Rights honors as well as literary awards.

We will also invite famous Southern authors to become honorary members of the club and to join our meetings when their schedules permit. Invitations will go to such luminaries as Jimmy Carter, Pat Conroy, Bailey White, Tina McElroy Ansa, Terry Kay, and Alice Walker. Who wouldn’t want to be in their company?

To keep our club thriving for another ninety years, we need to attract and retain the next generation of great authors, so the club board voted to institute a membership discount for students ages 25 and under: only \$20 per year. If you know any teachers or school administrators, please be sure to tell them about this incentive for young writers.

Our critique group at the Village Veranda in Alpharetta continues to attract talented individuals, many of whom are now members of the club. We will also present workshops around town to encourage beginning writers, but we need your help to advertise the club to your writing peers. The more ability and enthusiasm we can bring into the club, the more you will benefit from their knowledge and networking.

Please show your support for the club and the changes we continue to implement for you. Make the great experiment a success. See you at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 17 in Sandy Springs with more tongue twisters to tease you.

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**

PRE-MEETING NOSH & READ

Please bring your favorite snack to share during our pre-meeting social that begins at 1 p.m. At 1:15, members or guests can read a brief work they've written.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER INTERVIEW

“Become Enthusiastic About the Process of Writing” by Joan Harmon, First VP

The Atlanta Writer's Club is here to encourage and support writers to become enthusiastic about their work. We have engaged speakers for the year who will share their enthusiasm for the creative and professional process of writing.

In pursuing a speaker from NPR's “Between the Lines,” I encountered pure enthusiasm with Bob Lancer (www.boblancer.com), who is the husband of Marjory Lancer, producer of “Between the Lines.” A serendipitous moment is how I would describe my meeting with Bob Lancer. He exudes energy and optimism, and embraces the possibilities of life.

Bob has been a specialist in communication and how to apply the creative process to direct one's life for over twenty years, with published books such as *Creating Passion in Yourself and Others—AKA: Higher Performance Through Enthusiasm* and *Self-Renewal Through Adversity*, as well as a new book he is working on, *SOAR (What to Do When the Bottom Drops Out)*.

He is also a specialist in parenting and hosts WSB Radio's “Bob Lancer's Parenting Solutions.” Bob will speak about succeeding at what you love and finding and following inspiration. Join us Saturday, September 17 at 1:00 p.m. and become enthusiastic about the process of writing.

SEPTEMBER OUR TURN

Member Buzz Bernard will read one of his award-winning stories from the AWC Spring Contests and discuss the “story behind the story” as well as his creative process. Please join in with your own approaches for harnessing creativity and making your stories come to life.

OCTOBER MEETING PREVIEW

On October 15, we welcome horror writer James A. Moore for a bloody good discussion about writing horror fiction and surviving the scares and perils on the ruddy road to getting published. For those who can join us, we'll hold a pre-meeting in the library meeting room that starts at 11:30 a.m. so Kathleen Craft Boehmig and George Weinstein can present their seminar entitled “The Will and Wherewithal to Write,” designed to encourage and attract new writers (to be given at bookstores, libraries, etc.). We need your critiques to make the hour-long presentation as effective as possible. As an incentive for helping us with your comments, we'll provide lunch!

*****DUES PLEA*****

by Kathleen Craft Boehmig, Membership VP

It's that time again: the temperatures will soon be dropping like the autumn leaves. We don't want any AWC members dropping off our lists, though, so now's the time to get your yearly dues paid! Please go to the last page, complete the membership form, and send in your check for the 2005-2006 term. Dues are only \$25 for adults until the deadline of September 17th, the date of our first yearly meeting. After that, dues go up to \$30. Students up to age 25 pay only \$20. What a pittance for membership in such a wonderful group!

We look forward to an exciting year! And, we anticipate welcoming lots of new members at our convenient time, 1 p.m. every third Saturday, and at our new location at the Sandy Springs library. No more hectic rush-hour drives to midtown on Thursday nights! So send your payment in any way that works: by mail, carrier pigeon, or taped to a rock and thrown at Adrian's house...just get those dues in by the September meeting!!!

FALL WRITING CONTESTS

by Richard Anderson, Contests VP

Objectives of the Atlanta Writers Club include providing creative activities for all writers, and encouraging new writers. The Club Fall and Spring Writing Contests speak to these objectives by providing writing and learning opportunities for our members.

Categories for the Fall Contests are specified in the Club bylaws. They are: *Short Nonfiction, Short Fiction, Juvenile Story, Serious Poetry and Light Verse.*

Deadline for submissions to the Fall 2005 contests is **November 19, 2005**. Details of the contest rules, submission process, and awards will be published in the October E-Quill.

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 September 14 and 28. 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.

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

“Pools” by Fran Stewart

Pools of words—try using the words *cursoriness*, *perspicacity*, and *numinous* in valid sentences. Now try using them in a way that sounds natural. The English language is filled with words of rich and varied meanings, and those shades of meaning can shape our prose, adding dimension and depth to the written page. When we dip into the pool of words available to us, though, we need to be sure we are not likely to drown in it. It’s great fun to try out unusual words; see if they can bring a spark of life to an otherwise dreary sentence. Such words are generally more acceptable in poetry than in prose (although Peter Wimsey could get away with a fair number of them. Of course, Peter had Dorothy Sayers as his creator, and Harriet Vane—no mean vocabularist herself—as his love. Sayers was writing at a time when the working vocabulary of the average reader was something like 33% higher than it is today.). In poetry, *numinous* might just fit the bill. In prose, *spiritual* or *mysterious* wins out almost every time, no matter how much I might like poor little *numinous*.

Please note that I am not suggesting that writing should be sprinkled with sesquipedalian words (ones that are a foot and a half long) or with arcane references that impel a reader toward a dictionary or, more likely, toward the TV set. Unusual words, used simply for the sake of their rarity, turn our writing into a freak-show. A well-chosen term, however, that gives the precise shade of meaning we’re trying to convey, can illumine a dark and otherwise dingy corner of our prose.

I must admit that I’m someone who reads the dictionary for the fun of it, happily filling the void left by my not having a TV set. I’d like to think, however, that I have enough discrimination not to be lured into writing that “Biscuit McKee felt a need for cursoriness,” when it would make much more sense to say “she was in a hurry,” or that “her perspicacity surprised her husband.” Why not just say he couldn’t believe she’d figured *that* out?

The deep pool of a dictionary or thesaurus is a fearsome enticement to writers who don’t know how to swim around the tantalizing temptations that could pull us into a whirlpool of self-aggrandizing verbiage. (See what I mean?) Please note: we’d be the only ones to drown there, because our readers would have bailed out a long time ago. Let’s give those readers the benefit of assuming they are intelligent and discerning people who have a dictionary close at hand if they need it. But let’s not throw them into needing it on every single page. We don’t, after all, want to join that pool of writers who are deservedly ignored.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

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

Members who received Southeastern Writers Association awards from the June conference:

Buzz Bernard won two first-place and one second-place awards for fiction;

Adrian Drost received an honorable mention for humor writing; and

Mary Stripling received an honorable mention for holiday writing.

New member **Dell Dorenbosch** has been invited to write a regular column for the International Speakers Bureau magazine *Sharing Ideas*.

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 or EAST 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.

UPCOMING WRITERS FESTIVAL

The Southeastern Independent and Small Press Festival 2005 sponsored by The Chattahoochee Review and Agnes Scott College will be held September 23 & 24 at Agnes Scott. This is a FREE conference featuring poetry, fiction, and aspiring writers writing workshops. There is also a book fair, free readings, and discussions with editors, publishers, and agents from across the country. You may also attend a free panel discussion on the business behind book publishing and learn how to get your work seen and considered!

The event will be held at Agnes Scott College. Spots are filling up so if you are interested in attending please call 770-274-5145 or email gpcpr@gpc.edu. For more information including schedules and a complete list of workshops, visit www.chattahoochee-review.org and click on the "Southeastern Independent and Small Press Festival 2005" link.

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)
Note: Students, ages 25 and under, pay only \$20 year-round

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: ____/____/____