



E-Quill

March 2006 Issue

Spoken Magazine, Spring Contests, and T-Shirts, Oh My!

Next Meeting: March 18, 2006

- **1:00 – 1:30** *Potluck Nosh*: Bring your favorite snack, network with your peers, and submit your spring contest entries to Richard Anderson.
- **1:30 – 2:50** *Featured Program*: Spoken Magazine, with Kathleen Mainland as our emcee and our members as the star attractions.
- **2:50—3:00** *Vote for the AWC T-shirt*: Vote for your favorite style and place your order!

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.

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 detailed directions, 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** Patrice Dickey, motivational speaker on creativity
- **October 15, 2005** James A. Moore, horror writer
- **November 19, 2005** Jedwin Smith, journalist, nonfiction author, two-time Pulitzer Prize nominee
- **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** Cecil Murphey, former AWC President, best-selling author of over 100 books
- **May 20, 2006** Dana Wildsmith, poet, writing teacher, and essayist

Deadline for April E-Quill submissions is March 25th

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

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “A Cure for the Winter Blues”**by George Weinstein, President**

“All the leaves are brown, and the sky is gray...” I don’t know about you, but I’m dreaming about summer—not in California, but here in Hotlanta. As longtime members recall, The Atlanta Writers Club used to go into hibernation every summer, not waking until September. Last year, we changed all that. We indulged in a sumptuous picnic at the home of former AWC president Polly Neal and her dapper husband Henry, and later hosted a very successful writing workshop that introduced some of our current members to the club. This year, our plans are even bigger and better.

Polly once again has offered to share her lovely house, landscaped grounds, and breathtaking artwork with us for a June 10 picnic. As before, each family that attends will bring a dish for everyone to enjoy. With almost double the membership of the previous year, I expect that we’ll have quite a feast, with plenty of doggy bags and sweet memories.

On July 15, Brian Jay Corrigan, AWC member and author of the widely and highly acclaimed novel *The Poet of Loch Ness*, will lead a daylong seminar that embodies the goal of this club: to discuss the craft and business of writing. The morning session will focus on the magic of putting the right words together the right way, and he’ll devote the afternoon to the ways and means of getting published. Brian has offered to review query letters in advance and will provide written feedback. He’s even donating his fee to the club!

In August, back by popular demand, Peter Bowerman will present a half-day workshop on publicity and book promotion. He’ll expand on some of the topics mentioned during his January talk, and he’ll reveal many more secrets about the forbidding world of S&M: the sales and marketing of your book.

Come September, we’ll delve back into our regular two-hour meetings with a fresh lineup of entertaining, knowledgeable guests from the ethereal plane of writing and the bedrock world of publishing. First VP Joan Harmon and I are already discussing potential speakers.

Don’t worry, I’ll provide plenty of details about these upcoming events in later issues of the E-Quill. I just wanted to convey my excitement to you. And I needed an excuse to escape from a miserable winter’s day—by sharing my dreams of summer.

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

NOSH & NETWORK

Please bring your favorite snack to share during our pre-meeting social that begins at 1:00 p.m. Because Spoken Magazine is one long open mike, we'll enjoy extra networking time before the show begins.

FINAL CALL FOR SPOKEN MAGAZINE

The Spoken Magazine is one of the oldest continuing programs of The Atlanta Writers Club. The popularity of this event is rooted in the sharing of good writing by oral presentation. This year our March 18th meeting will be dedicated to the Spoken Magazine, and we are delighted that *Kathleen Mainland* has again agreed to emcee the event as well as select the works to be presented.

The rules are few. Your work should be short enough to be recited or read in three minutes or less (this amounts to approximately no more than two, double-spaced pages). You may enter serious works or humor, prose or poetry, even one-act plays if they fit the time constraint. The object is to entertain.

Submit your entries directly to Kathleen by post or e-mail not later than **10 March**. The appropriate addresses are: 1225 Citadel Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30324, or via e-mail at kate144@juno.com.

Most members will want to read or recite their work themselves. If you prefer Kathleen to read it for you (and she does it magnificently), be sure to mention that with your entry.

There are still plenty of open spots, so please contact Kathleen Mainland before time runs out!

T-SHIRT CONTEST

Enter your suggestions now!

Help design The Atlanta Writers Club tee!

Between now and March 17, contact George Weinstein at (770) 552-5887 or gjweinstein@yahoo.com and tell him:

- 1) What to write on the front of the shirt
- 2) What to write on the back
- 3) What color the shirt should be
- 4) Specify a logo if you desire

George will collect your suggestions and present them to the members for voting at the conclusion of Spoken Magazine on March 18.

FEBRUARY MEETING RECAP

by Susan Crawford

Our speaker at the February 18th meeting of The Atlanta Writers Club was Laurie Abkemeier. Laurie is a non-fiction agent with Defiore and Company, whose most noteworthy find thus far is *Marley and Me*, #1 bestseller for the past few weeks.

After obtaining her degree in 1992 in journalism and communications, Ms. Abkemeier moved to New York where she worked first at Simon and Schuster and then at the budding Hyperion Press where, as she says, “assistants could do anything.” In this milieu, Ms. Abkemeier was able to move from assistant editor to editor in six months, discovering the “frontline sexy books” Hyperion embraced. In 1998, she left Hyperion, and now works for Defiore and Company from her home in Atlanta.

Ms. Abkemeier emphasized the importance of finding an agent who is right, not only for the submitted work, but for the writer as well. “Do a lot of research,” she advised. She noted that many writers trip themselves up by not completing their proposals or books before approaching agents or publishers. Some fail to read the submission requirements, which differ from agency to agency. She stressed the value of the query letter, suggesting the author tell a little bit about himself or herself as well as including a “book-flap” wrap-up of the story that will “grab the agent’s attention.” Another recommendation was to “get a great title!”

Ms. Abkemeier graciously answered a multitude of questions from the audience, staying to respond to individuals long after Barbara Jones had begun speaking. Ms. Jones’ Our Turn section centered on political correctness as a hindrance to writers. In her very entertaining segment, she discussed this topical “literary pet peeve.”

UPCOMING WRITERS CONFERENCE

Contemporary Literary & Writers Conference at Kennesaw State University

Andrew Plattner: Monday, March 27 at 8 PM in the Leadership Room: Andrew Plattner is a writer of short stories that have been published in numerous journals and his book, *Winter Money*, won the Flannery O’Connor Award for Fiction.

Wyn Cooper: Wednesday, March 29 at 12:30 PM in the Leadership Room: Wyn Cooper is the author of three books of poetry, as well as a lyricist and performer. His poem “Fun” became the lyrics for the Grammy-winning song “All I Want To Do.” He will talk about writing poems versus song lyrics with some insight into the music and songwriting business.

Wyn Cooper: Wednesday, March 29 at 8 PM in the University Rooms CDE: poetry reading.

Scott Cairns: Thursday, March 30 at 8 PM in the Leadership Room: Scott Cairns is the author of the memoir, *Slow Pilgrim*, as well as five collections of poetry.

Open to the public without charge.

For directions to events:

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/alumnivisitors/maps.shtml>

THE SPRING CONTESTS—Entries are due not later than 18 March 2006.

EDNA HAWKINS MEMORIAL INSPIRATIONAL CONTEST

This writing should appeal to our nobler thoughts and emotions. It may be motivational, stimulating, provocative, encouraging or all of the above. It may be fiction or nonfiction. There is a 500 word limit. No poetry.

FIBONACCI FICTION

Sentence length in Fibonacci Fiction corresponds to the initial terms of the mathematical Fibonacci infinite series. Start with a one word sentence and increase to a 55 word sentence according to the series 1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55. Then descend from 34 words long to one, according to the series 34, 21,13,8,5,3,2,1,1.

Total length of the story is 231 words in 19 sentences, using appropriate paragraph structure. For example: Fire? Ice? Which one! I can't tell. I shouted loudly, "What's happening?" Etc.

THE 360

The 360 is a triplet of stories, fiction or nonfiction, each *exactly 60 words long*. The last somehow circles back to the first, e.g. via a character or scene or phrase; the second should nicely arc across the other two, but each has its own title and must be complete in itself. You may wish to use a different voice or POV in each 60-word story—or not. You may wish to focus on dialogue in one, narrative in another—or not. Make this a learning experience for yourself and a joy for the judges. Total length is 180 words, not including titles.

Contractions and hyphenated terms will count as one word in The 360 and Fibonacci Fiction.

FIXED-FORM POETRY

Enter any ONE of three short form poems: Villanelle (19 lines), Sonnet (14 lines), or Rondeau (13 lines). Each has specific structural and rhyming requirements, with which the writer should be familiar. My reference here is Michael Bugeja's book, *The Art and Craft of Poetry*.

PRIZES 1st place: **\$50**, 2nd place: **\$30**, 3rd place: **\$20**, Honorable Mention at judge's discretion.

MORE RULES

You may enter all categories, but not more than one entry per category.

Prose forms must be double spaced; poetry should be single spaced except for stanza breaks.

Use Times New Roman font, size 12, for all entries.

Place Title, Category and Word Count at top of first page of prose entries.

Clearly identify additional pages at the top with Title and Page Number.

Place Title, Category, Line Count and Form at top of first page of Poetry entries.

Do not place your name on any entry, but be sure it is identified as described below.

E-MAIL SUBMISSION: Microsoft Word e-mail attachment to BEARDEDONE@charter.net.

Put your name, entry title, word or line count, and category in body of the email.

Use "Spring Contest" as the e-mail subject. Entries must be **received** by the deadline date.

ALTERNATIVELY MAIL ENTRY TO: Richard Anderson, 136 Manor Way, Carrollton, GA 30117. (Or hand it to me at the March meeting; save at least 39 cents.)

Attach a card with your name, entry title, category and word or line count to your entry printed on white, letter sized (8.5 by 11 inches) paper. Entries must be **received** by the deadline date.

Retain a copy of your entry. We can't guarantee that your entry will be returned, although we try.

Non-adherence to rules or specifications can disqualify an entry or reduce its standing.

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

“Headlines and Headaches” by Fran Stewart

Journalists, the folks who write the headlines, must have a hard time deciding how to present a story about atrocities. We are inundated with those stories. How do we as readers decide whether the journalists are writing responsibly (reporting) or fanning the flames of national or international anger? If we were writing those news stories, would we choose to dwell on the sensational aspects, or would we go behind the headlines to find out *why* an incident happened, not to excuse it—for there is no excuse for such incidents—but to explain it with the hopes that the information we present will educate and will prevent future misuse of power.

If you’ve read this column for any length of time, you’ll know I’m a fan of Public Radio. I like the journalism I hear each day on their (deservedly) award-winning news programs. I like hearing the stories behind the stories. I like hearing news instead of sound bites. Yes, many of us in The Atlanta Writers Club write fiction, but to those of you who deal in non-fiction, either current or historical, I applaud your integrity when you go to great lengths to report fairly, to record the sometimes-difficult events that we need to hear about. I’m sure making those hard choices each day can lead to a lot of headaches, but I for one appreciate your efforts.

OUTREACH PROGRAM CONTINUES

Tell your friends who are eager to become writers but don’t know how to get started: Patricia Patterson and George Weinstein will present the club’s free hour-long seminar “Write The Way You Want To” on Saturday, March 25, at 11 a.m. in the Barnes and Noble on Peachtree St.

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 March 15 and 29. 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.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

(Submit all Achievements & Accolades to Fran Stewart, myownship@earthlink.net, 770-682-7483)
Former AWC President **Cecil Murphey's** *90 Minutes in Heaven*, written for Don Piper, has been translated into 12 languages and sold more than 500,000 copies. Target Stores have placed an initial order and the book has been a big seller for Wal-Mart. Cec sold his first cozy mystery, *Everybody Loved Roger Harden*. Publication date is January 2007.

Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club:

2006 Membership Dues: \$30 per member \$ _____

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 30075-4328

- Unpaid members will be removed from *The E-Quill* mailing list.
- 2006 Membership Year runs from 1/1/06 through 12/31/06

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: ____/____/____