



# E-Quill

September 2006 Issue

Membership Drive!

## Next Meeting: September 16, 2006

- **12:45 – 1:15** *Network & Nosh: Bring your favorite snack, make new friends.*
- **1:15 – 1:30** *Share Your Writing: Read a short work of two minutes or less.*
- **1:30 – 1:40** *Club Business: Announcements, new volunteer opportunities.*
- **1:40 – 3:00** *Guest Panel: Independent Bookstores. Five local indies tell us how they can benefit authors in ways that the big-box stories will not.*
- **3:00 – 3:30** *Network & Cleanup*

**The Atlanta Writers Club—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.

**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](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org)**

## 2006 Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings (12:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.):

- **September 16, 2006** Booksellers Roundtable—advice on how to maximize your sales
- **October 21, 2006** Darnell Arnout, critically acclaimed poet and novelist
- **November 18, 2006** Jack Riggs, award-winning author and educator
- **December 16, 2006** Joe Bathanti, novelist and poet
- **January 20, 2007** Robyn Freedman Spizman, author and TV/radio personality on self-promotion
- **February 17, 2007** Mike Kavanaugh, WSB “Money Matters” host and author on personal finance
- **March 17, 2007** Terry Kay, award-winning novelist
- **April 21, 2007** Spoken Magazine—members share their work
- **May 19, 2007** TBA

**Deadline for October e-Quill submissions is September 25th**

Contact E-Quill Editor: George Weinstein, [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com), 770-552-5887

## **WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “Sign Up Early and Often”**

**by George Weinstein, President**

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers at the Decatur Book Festival, over 300 visitors signed our guest book and are receiving this newsletter for the first time. We hope that many of them will find a home in The Atlanta Writers Club and that some will also embrace volunteerism and eventually assume leadership positions in this organization.

It all starts with becoming a member.

We encouraged those stopping by our booth to try out a meeting before committing their money and their energy to the club, but for those of you who have been with us for months or years, it's time to once again show your dedication. This year we've made it even more attractive to sign up early. If you join/renew by October 21, not only will you earn a \$5 discount on your dues, but you will also receive a Chapter 11 Bookstore discount form that entitles you to 11% or more off purchases in-house and on-line through the rest of this year and all of 2007. Your savings can quickly exceed your club dues!

If saving money isn't enough of a reason, why else should you become a member and do it now?

- Our critique groups are going to convert to members-only venues, and we're going to expand the number of groups to meet your need for nearby locations and focused genres.
- We're going to be doing more events like the Decatur Book Festival, which will give you opportunities to network, develop planning and persuasion skills, and sell to the public. Many authors paid \$250 for a booth in Decatur, and others had to give up 15% of their book sales to the sponsor of their booth, while AWC members got to keep every penny they earned.
- Plans for members-only writers retreats are in the works. Spend a weekend in the north Georgia mountains or at the shore being mentored and entertained by successful authors, agents, and/or publishers.
- Finally, you know you're going to do it anyway—get it over with and congratulate yourself for not procrastinating. The dollar savings will reinforce your decision and maybe start a new habit.

To join or renew, please go to the last page of this newsletter, complete the form, and mail it along with your check per the instructions on that page. You can also sign up on our website, [www.atlantawritersclub.org](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org), and pay your dues via PayPal. Don't make me come after you. You know that I'll do it, but I'd much prefer thanking you at the September 16 meeting. See you then.

### **OFFICER LIST FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB—2006 Term:**

**President:** George Weinstein  
**Membership VP:** Kathleen Craft Boehmig  
**Publicity VP:** Lu Ann Sodano  
**Contests VP:** Richard Anderson

**First VP:** Ginger Collins  
**Treasurer:** Adrian Drost  
**Secretary:** Angela Harvey  
**Quill Editor:** George Weinstein

### **OTHER CONTACTS:**

**Historian/Photographer/By-Laws:** Adrian Drost  
**Copy Editor:** Richard Anderson  
**Speaker Interviews:** Ginger Collins

**Poetry Editor:** Dorothy Worth  
**Achievements:** Fran Stewart

## **SEPTEMBER SPEAKER INTERVIEW**

### **“The Independent Bookstore—Small but Mighty”**

**by Ginger B. Collins, First VP & Program Chair**

Why are independent booksellers the author’s best friend? How can authors develop relationships with these influential hand-sellers? You’ll find out at the first meeting of our new season, September 16th. Meet representatives from five Atlanta-area booksellers and hear first-hand how indie bookstores differ from the big-box book guys. On our panel:

**Frank Reiss – A Cappella Books in Little Five Points.** Whether literary classics or Beat and the '60s, this store is long on literature. They also carry a wide selection of music and political books, and host live music events almost every Thursday evening.

**George Scott – Chapter 11 in Sandy Springs.** These booksellers focus on service, knowing customers by their name and their taste in books. Many book clubs look here for ideas on reading selections. Lots of book signings and exclusive author appearances.

**Sara Luce Look – Charis Books and More in Little Five Points.** The oldest feminist bookstore in the southeast, offering books for and about women, and titles that cover lesbian, gay, and trans-gender issues. They feature authors in programs and events, and do a First Friday Open Mic.

**Doug Robinson - Eagle Eye Books in Decatur.** With 50,000 titles, in 55 different subject areas, Eagle Eye has all the bases covered. And if vintage and rare books are your weakness, they have a separate room full of titles to browse.

**Laura Keys, Tall Tales in Toco Hills.** A general bookstore with a 26-year tradition in the area. Hand-selling has built a core of loyal customers including many academics. Poetry Open Mic one Friday each month. Readings and signings focus on local authors.

It’s everything you want to know, so don’t be afraid to ask. Bring your questions and be ready to take notes during this expanded multi-guest program.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

It’s that time again, but—in addition to a \$5 savings off the new membership rate—we have a super incentive for you to join early: the Chapter 11 Bookstore at 220 Johnson Ferry Road in Sandy Springs has awarded coupons to the club, to be given to everyone who renews or joins for the first time by October 21. You’ll save at least 11% on nearly everything in their store and on-line. Use the membership form at the end of this newsletter, or renew/join on our website at <http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html>.

## UPCOMING WRITERS CONFERENCES

**The Northeast Georgia Writers Club** is holding its 14th Biennial Writers Conference scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2006 on the beautiful campus of Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. The theme for the conference this year is The Writing Olympic Spirit—Climb Your Mountain! Cost for the day, (everything included): \$99; students: \$39. Last day to register will be Monday, October 2nd. Reservations are limited. Contact Mary Ellen Collier, Conference Director at (770) 534-6715 or Elouise Whitten at (770) 532-3007 for more information.

**Southern Breeze Region of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators** presents its annual fall conference called Writing and Illustrating for Kids '06. The conference will be held in Birmingham, AL, on Oct 21st and will include workshops with several editors, agents and published authors. For more information regarding the conference details and registration, please see the web site at [http://www.southern-breeze.org/conf\\_fallconference06.htm](http://www.southern-breeze.org/conf_fallconference06.htm).

**Iodine Literary Conference**—Beaufort SC January 26 & 27, 2007—sponsored by the Arts Council of Beaufort County. Conference includes a Friday small press reception at Firehouse Books: Writers, readers, authors, and small press representatives will attend this free-to-the public reception, to enjoy and explore the changes in the literary marketplace, and the value of small press books.

Saturday Manuscript Critiques at the Cuthbert House Inn: Writers meet in private with a small press representative for a manuscript critique geared towards publishing book-length work; \$35. Manuscript submission deadline is **November 10, 2006**. Call 843-379-6607 or visit <http://www.eatgoodbread.com/iodine.html> for details.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dahlonega Literary Festival** will be President's Day weekend, February 17-18, 2007. Its chairman, Brian Jay Corrigan, has invited The Atlanta Writers Club to set up an area to provide club information to the public, conduct readings, and perhaps do book-signings. The first annual Dahlonega Writers Conference will be running in tandem, so AWC members could also attend seminars on character, plot, query letter writing, finding agents, etc., presented by writers as Diana Gabaldon, Cassandra King, Mary Kay Andrews (Kathy Hogan Trocheck), Patti Callahan Henry, and Brian Jay Corrigan. For more information, please visit their website at [www.literaryfestival.org](http://www.literaryfestival.org).

## ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

(Submit all Achievements & Accolades to Fran Stewart, [myownship@earthlink.net](mailto:myownship@earthlink.net))

**Fran Stewart:** Kennesaw State University will publish two of her poems in their upcoming anthology *Poetry of the Golden Generation*.

**Sara Martin** spoke & did a book-signing at the Button Gwinnett Cultural Society in Norcross in August, the Decatur Book Festival in September, and was interviewed by Radio Sandy Springs.

**Patricia Patterson's** poem "Loneliness At Night" was published in the August 2006 issue of Atlanta Senior News. She'll have a series of three articles on friendship published in March, April, and May 2007 in Simple Joy online magazine.

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

#### “Maps” by Fran Stewart

Think about maps. Think about the way they lay out a town, a countryside, a nation, in tidy grids. Highways, rivers, mountains. Or perhaps, neighborhoods, stores, parks.

Now think about your own writing. Do you have a map in your head? Do you *know* where your characters live? Not just the name of the city or town or state, but the lay of the land. Can you translate that map onto the page? Do you know how long it takes to get from point A to point B, say from Mortimer’s apartment to Angelina’s classroom? Could you sketch the relative relationships of *this* house to *that* house? Do you convey that sense of space to your readers?

I tend to like books that have maps in the front of them, but I’m willing to forgo the map if the author can *show* me the town, or enough of it so that I can see where the action is. *Next door* in a subdivision of townhouses is going to have a different feel than the next door of a rural community, a country club development, or a slum. A block is a widely variable term, depending on whether you’re talking city, country, mountainside town, or seaside resort.

Don’t tell me Mortimer *walked three blocks* to pick up Angelina from school (and, by the way, is she the teacher, the student, the guidance counselor? Is this high school, grade school, college? Is he her father, her boyfriend, her parole officer?) Show me the trees along the way, show him striding across vacant lots. Does he dodge traffic in his haste? Or does he stroll by the bakery and stop in to pick up croissants and wine for a celebratory picnic?

Draw me a map, a map with words, so I can feel I’m a part of your journey.

### FIRST CALL: FALL WRITING CONTESTS

by Richard Anderson, Contests VP

It’s time to sharpen your wits and your pencils, or cajole your muse and crank-up your Microsoft Word. Your contest entries must be received by **18 November 2006**. Complete submission rules will appear in the October E-Quill. Up to three cash prizes may be awarded in each of five categories, as decided by independent judges: First prize \$50, Second prize \$30, Third prize \$20. Any paid member may enter.

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Other notes</u>
Short Story	3000 words	Any subject, any genre
Nonfiction	3000 words	Any subject
Juvenile Story	1500 words	Fiction or Nonfiction
Serious Poetry	60 lines	Any form, any subject
Light Verse	20 lines	Humorous, rhyming and metered (e.g. Limerick)

We plan to publish some of the judged entries in future E-Quill’s with permission of the authors. This will not affect future publication rights. An entry form will be provided in the October E-Quill.

## MEMBER PROFILES

Each month, we'll profile two club members so you can get to know more peers in our ever-expanding club:

### Mark All

Mark All has won two international writing contests, one resulting in publication of a short story in a trade paperback anthology. He's currently revising *Mystic Witch*, his fourth novel, a paranormal suspense. Mark joined the Atlanta Writers Club for the educational opportunities it affords, as well as critique groups and fellowship with writers. He also belongs to other writing organizations such as the Horror Writers Association and the Romance Writers of America. Mark is a corporate web-based training designer and developer and formerly a professional musician, radio announcer, and gravedigger.

### Shelli Johannes-Wells

In 2000, Shelli Johannes-Wells left corporate America and founded her own marketing business—bilan, inc. She combines her MBA with over fourteen years of business experience to create affordable training and marketing collateral for authors, small businesses, and non-profits. Her clientele list also includes many Fortune 500 companies such as Accenture, Delta, and Bank of America. For her services, please visit [www.bilaninc.com](http://www.bilaninc.com).

Shelli lives in Atlanta with her husband, daughter, two dogs, and four fish. In her spare time, she enjoys writing middle grade/young adult novels. She joined the Atlanta Writers Club to begin building deeper relationships and a more extensive network with other writers in the Atlanta area.

## TWO CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUPS NOW IN OPERATION!

**Wednesdays, September 13 and 27:** The Atlanta Writers Club sponsors a critique at **Nirvana Cafe and Grille in Roswell** on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. All members are welcome. This group focuses solely on critiquing one another's work. Please bring up to four pages of your work and eight copies to share so we can give you written feedback. Nirvana Cafe and Grille (678-277-2626) is located at 10930B Crabapple Road, Suite 120, in Roswell, situated between Von Gogh's Restaurant and the BP gas station at the corner of Hwy. 92 (Crossville Road) and Crabapple Road. We meet in the semi-private room.

**Thursdays, September 14 and 28:** Our midtown critique group meets at the **Chapter 11 in Ansley Mall** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All members are welcome. Please bring up to four pages of your work and eight copies to share so we can give you written feedback. Directions: from Buckhead, take Piedmont Road south. Cross over Monroe; the mall will be on your right.

## **BOOK REVIEWS: ATLANTA WRITERS ALSO READ**

(Please send 250-word book reviews to George Weinstein, [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com))

### **Lauren Weisberger's *The Devil Wears Prada*, reviewed by Terry Segal**

*The Devil Wears Prada*, by Lauren Weisberger, is a page-turner, told from the point of view of Andrea Sachs, a young woman who just graduated from college and lands the coveted position of assistant to Miranda Priestly—"The Boss from Hell"—who is the editor of a major fashion magazine. Andrea sells her soul to use this as a stepping stone for entrée into a position working for *The New Yorker*. Andrea's breathless drive is exhausting, as she loses sight of what is truly important in her life. Lauren Weisberger drags us, by the collar, through Andrea's experiences, forcing us to take a cold, hard look at the priorities in our own lives.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading it; however, the heroine's tale pales in comparison to the story of how Ms. Weisberger came to write the book and subsequently became an "overnight success." Before I knew anything about *The Devil Wears Prada*, I heard Ms. Weisberger on a local radio station, promoting her book. She spoke about being in her twenties and attending writing groups and critique circles in a neighborhood bookstore in New York, where she resides. She talked about writing a scene and presenting it to the group—receiving positive feedback and encouragement—and writing some more. She completed *The Devil Wears Prada* and, in less than two years, it was published and made into a movie. Her second novel, *Everyone Worth Knowing*, is available in bookstores and also is being made into a movie. Ms. Weisberger's story is an inspiration to all of us.

### **John Updike's *The Terrorist*, reviewed by Jim Stevens**

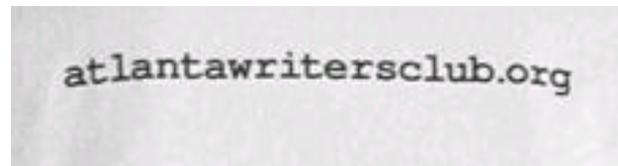
John Updike's new novel, *The Terrorist*, is a most unusual look at the problem of Muslim fundamentalist terrorism. It is not an analytical look at the historical causes, but instead shows us a viewpoint from an 18-year-old Muslim American living in an economically depressed New Jersey town. The son of a long-gone Egyptian Muslim father and an Irish American mother, Ahmed describes his weekly sessions at a mosque where he memorizes the Koran, is indoctrinated in the fundamentals of Islam, and expresses his disgust at the "ungodly" ways of the Americans he sees around him. The ease with which he accepts the concept of martyrs does not come as a surprise, but as the inevitable result of his indoctrination. For anyone struggling to understand what motivates the terrorists, Updike's book offers a frightening explanation.

## **PARTNERING WITH CHAPTER 11 BOOKSTORE IN SANDY SPRINGS**

Come to the Chapter 11 Bookstore (220 Johnson Ferry Road in Sandy Springs/404-256-5518) and meet:

- **Thriller writer Brad Meltzer on Sept. 12th at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Perennial best-selling author Stuart Woods on Oct. 10th at 6:30 p.m.**

## THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB T-SHIRTS—2 STYLES ON SALE



Each shirt is a bargain at \$10 apiece, or buy two for \$18 (or three for \$27, four for \$36, etc.). There's a bonus discount if you order them on-line at [www.atlantawritersclub.org/merchandise](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/merchandise). You may also order by check, payable to *The Atlanta Writers Club*, by contacting George Weinstein at [gjweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:gjweinstein@yahoo.com) or (770) 552-5887. Tell him:

- 1) Whether you want black, white, or both styles of t-shirt.
- 2) Which size(s) for each color: Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, XXXXL; and/or Child L.
- 3) What quantity of each size.
- 4) Whether you want the shirt(s) mailed to you or you will pick it up. They will be available for pickup and for sale at every meeting. If you want mail delivery, add \$7 for the first shirt and \$3 for additional ones for packaging and shipping charges.

## Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club:

### 2007 Membership Dues:

- \$35 per member if paid by Oct. 21 and receiving e-Quill by e-mail \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$40 if receiving e-Quill by regular mail, or joining after Oct. 21
- Students, ages 25 and under, pay only \$30 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.
- Payment in 2006 grants membership through the rest of 2006 and all of 2007.

### 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: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_