



E-Quill

October 2006 Issue

Ambitious Plans

Next Meeting: October 21, 2006

- **12:45 – 1:15** *Network & Nosh:* Enjoy club-provided snacks and 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 – 2:30** *Guest Speaker:* Novelist and poet Darnell Arnoult reads her work and speaks about the pluses and minuses of working with small and large publishers.
- **2:30 – 3:00** *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

2006 Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings (12:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.):

- **October 21, 2006** *Darnell Arnoult*—critically acclaimed poet and novelist (mtg. ends at 3:00 p.m.)
- **November 18, 2006** *Jack Riggs*—award-winning author, writer-in-residence at GA Perimeter College
Steven Wallace—Random House regional sales manager
- **December 16, 2006** *Joe Bathanti*—novelist, poet, creative writing prof. at Appalachian State Univ.
YA Book Panel—Alan Gratz, Elizabeth Lenhard, Mary Ann Rodman
- **January 20, 2007** *Robyn Freedman Spizman*—author and TV/radio personality on self-promotion
Walter Sorrells—man of a thousand pen names (most of them female!)
- **February 17, 2007** *Mike Kavanaugh*—WSB “Money Matters” host and author on personal finance
Milam McGraw Propst—author of acclaimed Ocree series of Southern novels.
- **March 17, 2007** *Terry Kay*—international best-selling novelist and screenwriter
Literary/Poetry Journals Panel—Marc Fitten, Megan Sexton, William Walsh
- **April 21, 2007** *Spoken Magazine*—members share their work
Deidre Knight—top literary agent and paranormal-romance author
- **May 19, 2007** TBA

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “Ambitious Plans”

by George Weinstein, President

As the club grows, adding to our breadth of writing experiences and interests, the club leaders need to continue to offer meetings and events that satisfy your diverse needs. The Decatur Book Festival not only introduced the club to a new population of writers, but also gave us a chance to attract so many new speakers that we’ve decided to expand the timeframe of each meeting to give you two programs instead of one.

This new format will commence in November. You’ll notice on page 1 of the newsletter that two speakers or a speaker and a panel are listed for each month, starting November 18. The first half of the meeting will continue as before. However, at 3 p.m. you’ll get a second program with an entirely new focus. It’s not a segue; it’s a whole ’nother direction. Monty Pythonites refer to this as “And Now for Something Completely Different.” By doubling our programs, we hope to give you twice as much information to improve your writing skills and increase your publishing wherewithal. By booking radically different speakers, we know you’ll find something every month that engages your personal interests.

The club will also become even more active in upcoming literary and cultural festivals. Last summer’s sensational seminar presenter Brian Jay Corrigan has invited us to participate in the Dahlonega Literary Festival in February (festival details on page 4). Club members will have an opportunity to do readings and book signings as well as bring potential new members into the fold, or, in Brian’s words, create “a mini festival featuring AWC talent.” In April, Atlanta is sponsoring its annual Dogwood Festival, which attracts tens of thousands and provides another chance for the club to let the writers of the region know who we are and what we can do for them. I’ll ask for volunteers for both festivals before year’s end.

We also want to expand the scope of our critique groups. A few people signed up at the last meeting, but we know that many more of you are looking for constructive feedback about your work. Some of our speakers have even volunteered to mentor you. For example, where else can you go to have Megan Sexton, managing editor of the award-winning *Five Points Journal*, coach you in poetry? Be sure to take advantage of these sign-up opportunities at meetings and via e-mail solicitations.

Of course, our most ambitious plan is to pack the Sandy Springs Library meeting room on October 21 for Darnell Arnoult. I hope to see you there!

OFFICER LIST FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB—2006 Term:

President: George Weinstein
Membership VP: OPEN
Publicity VP: OPEN
Contests VP: Richard Anderson

First VP: Ginger Collins
Treasurer: Adrian Drost
Operations VP: OPEN
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

OCTOBER SPEAKER INTERVIEW

“Darnell Arnoult—A Midlife Success Story”

by Ginger B. Collins, First VP & Program Chair

As a young girl in rural Virginia, Darnell Arnoult dreamed of being a writer. A teacher’s praise for one of her stories planted the idea, but she had to wait a long time for that seed to bear fruit. Last year, as she was about to turn 50, LSU Press, one of the premier poetry publishers in the country, brought out her first volume of poems, *What Travels with Us*. The book was named winner of the 2005 Weatherford Award for Fiction and Poetry, and recently won the SIBA Poetry Book of the Year Award. In June of this year, Free Press, a prestigious imprint of Simon & Shuster, released her first novel, *Sufficient Grace*, with a starred review from Publishers Weekly and glowing blurbs from the likes of Kay Gibbons, Clyde Edgerton, and Lee Smith.

Darnell will read selections from her novel and poetry book, give us a glimpse of her current project, then share the “curlicue path” of her life and tell us what it’s like, after writing for over 30 years, to be an overnight sensation. Don’t miss the chance to meet and talk with this truly unique writer.

Darnell will be available to sign books after her presentation. For your convenience, The Sandy Springs Chapter 11 will have copies of *Sufficient Grace* and *What Travels With Us* for sale at the meeting.

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 all Chapter 11 bookstores 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>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some opportunities to help the club thrive and to contribute to our future direction. We’d like your commitment at least until May 2007.

- Membership Vice President: This “veep” keeps track of member profiles, makes sure the club is satisfying member needs, and encourages dues payments.
- Publicity Vice President: If you have a background in sales or marketing, help us spread the word about the club.
- Operations Vice President: Oversee room set up and clean up for meetings; capture action items at board meetings and make sure these tasks get done; and be a sounding board for new ideas as well as provide your own. No shrinking violets need apply!
- Meeting Caterer: We’ll pay you to shop for snacks. Our “nosh table” will become self-financing with tips paid by those who partake—take that money and purchase a spread for the next meeting.

ALL YOU CAN EAT FOR \$1.00 AT THE MEETING

Our snack table has been seeing fewer contributions, and we have more people than ever to feed, so we're looking for someone who will cater the meetings (see the Volunteer Opportunities on page 3). The cost will be offset by the \$1 contributions of members who partake. We'll provide bottled water, soft drinks, ice, and snacks both salty and sweet, and ask for a mere buck in return.

UPCOMING WRITERS CONFERENCES

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.

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 4th Annual Dahlonga 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 Dahlonga 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 such 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.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

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

Richard Anderson spoke to the Carrollton Golden Kiwanis Club on October 4th in a talk titled "Skydiving, Sex, and Richard's Reasons for Writing."

Sara Hines Martin had two articles in the Sept/Oct. issue of *400 Edition* magazine and did a book signing at the annual state librarians' association conference in Athens.

Fran Stewart was inducted into membership in the *Letters* category of the National League of American Pen Women.

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

“Strunk & White’s *Elements of Style*” by Fran Stewart

You’ve never read *The Elements of Style*? You call yourself a writer? Well, I suppose that’s a possibility, but why would any writer, or aspiring writer, wish to pass up **the** classic how-to book of all time?

Half the fun of reading Strunk and White (and it *is* fun indeed) is mulling over the examples for the various rules they set forth. One can never forget the difference between *alternate* and *alternative* after reading, “As the flooded road left them no alternative, they took the alternate route” (p. 40). Clear? Yes. Concise? Yes. We already know, even without reading the definitions, that there is a sense of choice implied with the word *alternative*.

I compose these columns because three years ago someone for whom English is a second language asked me to write a few tips each month that would help him deal with American English. The point is, though, that we all can use tips about this complex, extraordinary language of ours. The little book known as *The Elements of Style* was first written in 1919. It is still fresh, vibrant, and exceedingly useful. Although it has needed a few modest updates over the nine decades since it appeared as a college text for Professor Strunk’s own classes, it still rings with a clarion call for precision.

Five sections. Eighty-five pages. Buy it. Read it. Follow it. There is even an updated 2005 edition with illustrations by Maira Kalman for added enjoyment.

MEMBER PROFILES

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

Kathy Lewis

In 2002, Kathy left a sales job in the computer software industry to help run a healthcare consulting firm (part-time only) and focus on fiction writing, something she’s dreamed about doing since college. Since then, she’s completed one novel, three short stories, and numerous half-baked ideas shoved into a variety of folders and notebooks. She joined the Atlanta Writers Club to find people to talk with about the craft of writing so she can quit boring her friends with conversations concerning character development and themes. She is currently working on her second novel and a ghostwriting project for a local Atlanta consulting firm.

Buzz Bernard

Buzz Bernard is the author of five published nonfiction books, but over the past six years has focused on fiction. Although his short pieces have won a number of awards in local and regional contests (and an honorable mention in the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition), he’s yet to strike pay dirt with his novels. But he’s stubborn enough, he says, to keep digging: he’s currently at work on his fourth effort, *EYEWALL*. Buzz joined the Atlanta Writers Club (for fellowship, encouragement and learning opportunities) in 2004. He’s also a member of the Southeastern Writers Association and the Alpharetta Barnes & Noble Writers Workshop. Buzz lives in Roswell with his wife, Chris, and Pekingese, Sasha.

TWO CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUPS NOW IN OPERATION!

Wednesdays, October 11 and 25: 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, October 12 and 26: 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.

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:

- Perennial bestseller STUART WOODS signs *Short Straw*, Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m.
- Mystery writer ROBERT GREER signs *The Fourth Perspective*, Friday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m.
- Best-selling novelist JOHN CONNOLLY signs *The Book of Lost Things*, Saturday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m.

TIPS FOR THE FALL WRITING CONTESTS:

WINNERS ANTHOLOGY ON SALE

To help you with the 2006 Fall Writing Contests (see page 7), Vicki Kestranek has compiled and published a small anthology of First Place Award Winners in The Atlanta Writers Club 2005 Fall Contests with the kind permission of the winning authors. Judges comments are also included. A limited number of the printed anthologies will be available for a nominal price (TBD) at the October club meeting.

If you have any uncertainties about entering the club contests, this is your chance to read past winning entries. Be aware, however, that rules for the 2005 and 2006 contests are similar, but not identical. Be sure to read and adhere to the submission rules on page 7 of this issue of the E-Quill. Then submit your entries to the 2006 Fall Contests before November 18th.

RULES FOR THE 2006 FALL WRITING CONTESTS

The Entry Deadline for Receiving Entries is 18 November 2006

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Specifications</u>
Nonfiction	3000 words	Any subject
Short Story	3000 words	Any subject, any genre
Juvenile Story	1500 words	Fiction or Nonfiction
Serious Poetry	60 lines	Any form, any subject
Light Verse (humor)	20 lines	Rhyming, metered (e.g. limerick)

Cash Prizes in all Categories! (Awarded at January 2007 meeting)

<u>First Place</u>	<u>Second Place</u>	<u>Third Place</u>	<u>Honorable Mention</u>
\$50	\$30	\$20	Citation at judges' discretion

Eligibility

Contests are open only to current, paid members of The Atlanta Writers Club. Entries must be original, unpublished and never received any previous award.

Submission Rules

- >You may enter all 5 categories but only *one manuscript per category*.
- >Submissions may be e-mailed, mailed or delivered to the contest chairperson.
- >E-mail submissions must be as Word Attachment.
- >Type work in **Times New Roman font, size 12**, on white, letter-sized paper.
- >Double space prose entries. Single space poetry.
- >Place full Title and Category in upper left corner of first page.
- >Place title in upper left corner and page number in upper right of following pages.
- >Do **Not** place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry.
- >*Use Standard Submission Form* for All Entries (e-mail and hard copy).
- >Manuscripts may not be returned. Be sure to retain a copy of your work.
- >Mail entries to **Richard Anderson, 136 Manor Way, Carrollton, GA 30117**, or preferably e-mail (Word attachments) to Richard at: **BeardedOne@charter.net**, or deliver to Richard at the AWC meeting on or before 18 November 2006.

Standard Submission Form: This Must be Separate Attachment or Sheet from Entry

Author's Name:

Contest Category:

Title of Entry:

Word Count or Line Count:

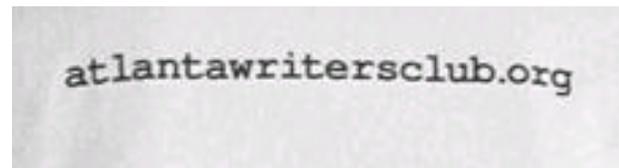
Permission (you **must** select a> or b> below): The Atlanta Writers Club

a> has b> does not have

my permission to include my entry in print or email club contest publications.

(Contest publications may be used to help explain or promote future contests. You will not relinquish publication rights by giving your permission here.)

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. You may also order by check, payable to *The Atlanta Writers Club*, by contacting George Weinstein at 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 your 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: ____/____/____