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.

(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.):

- **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

- **March 17, 2007**
  - Terry Kay—international best-selling novelist and screenwriter
  - Literary/Poetry Journal 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: “Loving Change”
by George Weinstein, President

You did it! You packed the room at the October meeting. We counted 71 attendees, a full house.

Here’s the downside of success: we need to find a larger venue for our meetings. Fortunately, I think we’ve found such a place. I hope that I’ll be able to announce our new location at the November 18 meeting. The change would go into effect in January 2007 (new year, new place). Before then, though, we’d like to hold a combination board meeting/open house at our new digs so you can check it out prior to our official start there, as well as participate in the planning of future club events. I think you’ll like the spot we have in mind. If you can’t make it to the November 18 meeting, don’t worry. Everything you need to know about the new location will be in the next newsletter, posted on the website, and e-mailed to you as a reminder.

Such a change is a very good sign. While I want us to have a stable home for meetings henceforth, I also want us to have to continue to deal with such growing pains. Positive change for a club is like movement for a shark: it sustains life.

The other thing that keeps a club fresh and lively is having members who want to volunteer their time and skills. We can never have too many volunteers. Please see the list on page ___ and contact me at 770-552-5887 or at gjweinstein@yahoo.com to note where and how you would like to help out.

Another positive change to celebrate: the creation of AWC critique groups across the region, from Lawrenceville and Decatur to Sandy Springs and Marietta. Most of these groups will hold their first meeting in November. Once they’ve stabilized, with an established facilitator and schedule for critiquing, I’ll publish the contact information so you can join in if you haven’t already signed up.

And, finally, remember that on November 18 the club meetings will begin featuring two programs with entirely different focuses. Please see Ginger Collins’ write up on page 3 for details on the November twin bill. This is yet another change to serve you better; we know you’ll find something every month that engages your personal interests.

Let’s make our last two appearances in the Sandy Springs Library meeting room memorable. 71 attendees is the record—can we break it? I hope you’ll join me in trying to set a new mark on November 18!

OFFICER LIST FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB—2006 Term:

President: George Weinstein
First VP: Ginger Collins
Membership VP: Kate Copsey
Treasurer: Adrian Drost
Publicity VP: Jim Stevens
Operations VP: OPEN
Contests VP: Richard Anderson
Quill Editor: George Weinstein

OTHER CONTACTS:

Historian/By-Laws: Adrian Drost
Photographers: Adrian Drost, Mike Buchanan
Copy Editor: Richard Anderson
Poetry Editor: Dorothy Worth
Speaker Interviews: Ginger Collins
Achievements: Fran Stewart
Story Telling and Manuscript Selling
Learn About Both on Saturday, November 18th
by Ginger B. Collins, First VP & Program Chair

Ask Jack Riggs who’s responsible for storytelling and he’ll let you off the hook. “Storytelling is the character’s responsibility. It’s not up to you or the miracle of writing.” Jack speaks from experience. His characters have been telling their stories on the pages of *The Chattahoochee Review* and other prestigious literary journals for years. They’ve brought him a nomination for the Pushcart Prize, and a debut work that won the Georgia Writer of the Year for First Novel award in 2003.

Jack Riggs is currently Writer in Residence at Georgia Perimeter College where he teaches Creative Writing and Film Studies. As our 1:45pm speaker, Jack will read from his award-winning novel, *WHEN THE FINCH RISES*, and expand on the topic of storytelling. He’ll show us how to stop writing, start listening, and let the character tell the story, plus take questions from the audience. Chapter 11 will have copies of FINCH available for sale, and Jack will stay around during our networking session to sign books and talk with members.

What do publishers want? Ask Steven Wallace. When it comes to the publishing business, Steven knows it inside and out, and he'll be sharing that knowledge with the AWC audience as our three o'clock speaker. Following a stint at the *Montgomery Advertiser* after his Auburn graduation, Steven took a position at Capital Book and News, the oldest bookstore in the southeast. He left the bookstore to work in the brokerage business, but Random House Publishing lured him back to the world of books in 1988. He was a field rep for several southeast territories for nine years, leading to his current role as Division Director for Southeast Field Sales.

In his position as Division Director, Steven is involved in the many layers of the publishing process. He will explain how publishers decide what manuscripts to buy and walk our audience through the life of a book—from manuscript to bookstore. "I like to leave plenty of time for questions," Steven says. "The Q&A leads the presentation and gives each group what they really need." What do publishers want? We'll find out!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Here are some opportunities to help the club thrive and to contribute to our future direction.

- Projects: organizing club participation at upcoming literary festivals (Dahlonega in February, Dogwood Festival in April); organizing the club picnic in June, organizing a spring or summer writer's retreat.

- Ongoing assistance: surveying members via phone; mentoring new writers; acting as a meeting buddy for guests and new members; critique group facilitating; distributing club literature to bookstores, colleges, arts centers, etc.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

If you haven’t already joined or renewed your membership, please use the membership form at the end of this newsletter, or go to our website at [www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html).
MEMBER PROFILES

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

Barbara E. Connor
A child of the Depression, growing up in Nebraska, Connor had few possessions yet riches beyond compare. The small public library across the street from her apartment was a sanctuary where she escaped into unknown worlds. Never did she dream of a day when she would become features correspondent for the Ocala Star Banner, Ocala, Florida, or see two of her fiction short stories published. Connor finds critique groups an essential component for dealing with the business of writing and was overjoyed to find the Atlanta Writers during a visit to the recent Decatur Book Festival.

Ken Schmanski
Ken’s engineering career has provided many outlets for work related writing in his varied responsibilities in Engineering, Technical Support, Marketing, and Sales Management. Ken has had four technical articles published in industry journals in the last two years. He is still "haunted" by the words of a college English professor from over 30 years ago telling him he should be a writer instead of an engineer. Ken lives in Lawrenceville with his wife, Paula, and Corgi, Basia. He is joining the AWC to meet writers of all types and for the inspiration and knowledge to finally break into the world of writing fiction.

BOOK REVIEW: ATLANTA WRITERS ALSO READ

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

Lisa See’s Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, reviewed by Bobbi Kornblit

Chinese-American author Lisa See assumed the voice of Lily, an octogenarian in 19th-century China, to tell a tale of friendship and betrayal. In childhood Lily and Snow Flower, intimate companions (laotong, or “old sames”), pledged lifelong loyalty to each other.

They communicated from their adjacent villages by nu shu, a secret writing with characters as delicate as “bird prints in the dust,” known only to women. The pair embroidered their missives on fabric and wrote them on a single fan they exchanged for four decades.

Lily’s and Snow Flower’s feet were bound to make the girls more desirable “marriage material” in an age when the ideal for feminine beauty was three-inch-long feet, called golden lilies, attained through excruciating methods. Their matchmaker explained, “A lovely face is a gift from Heaven, but tiny feet can improve social standing.”

Females were considered worthless. The purpose of all women, whether wealthy or peasant, was to marry well and to procreate sons. The foods they ate, prayers they recited, and customs they followed were designed to ensure the birth of male offspring. Lily recalled “But we learned the most important lesson for all women: that we must obey for our own good.”

Through extensive research, including trips to remote regions of China, the author captured specific details of history and culture that transport the reader into a distant era and locale. Set against peace and civil strife, the rituals of life’s passages—infant mortality, girlhood, arranged marriages, and burial rites—were deftly woven into the story of a close friendship that was more meaningful to Lily and Snow Flower than their marital bonds.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan is a rich and riveting novel that makes an excellent choice for individuals and book clubs. First published in 1995 by Random House, it is currently available in paperback.
ALL YOU CAN EAT SNACKS FOR $1.00 AT THE MEETING

We provide bottled water, soft drinks, ice, and snacks both salty and sweet, and ask for a mere buck in return.

UPCOMING WRITERS CONFERENCES

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.


The 4th 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 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)

Michael Buchanan and Diane Lang’s novel Micah's Child is featured by Barnes and Nobles in their Top 100 Romances category. They have done book signings in GA, FL, NC, SC, and VA and were interviewed by Coolstuff4writers.com.

Out of five contests entered, Patrice Dickey's book Back to the Garden: Getting from Shadow to Joy has won five awards. The most recent are Honorable Mention in the Inspirational Category of the 2006 Writers Digest Independent Publishers contest, and two Finalist Awards in the Best Books 2006 Book Awards in both Spirituality and Aging, Death & Dying categories.
FROM THE TIP OF MY PEN – A Writer’s Tip of the Month:

“Thankfulness—Put in Some Breathing Space” by Fran Stewart

I am reluctant to talk too much about Thanksgiving. We do not have a mandate that says, “Simply because it is November, we must discuss Pilgrims.” Thankfulness, though, is another matter altogether, particularly for writers. We want our ideal reader to be thankful that we have written, thankful that we managed to get it published and available, thankful that we have written well.

It’s simply not fair, though, to wear out your reader. You may have dozens of high-action scenes crying out to be written into your book. You may have worked and re-worked those scenes to keep the suspense at fever pitch.

Wait.

One of my favorite memories is of the Big Apple Circus that I saw years ago in Vermont. There was a lithe but muscular fellow in jeans, chaps, and a cowboy hat who spun around the ring twirling a lasso faster than a rope could possibly have been designed to travel. There was an element of fire, although I don’t recall exactly what was burning or what he did with it. I do, however, remember the exhaustion I felt. At that moment, with the masterful timing of true showmanship, the cowboy took his bow.

And that was when the magic happened. After several seconds of silence, a single spotlight went up into the audience and illuminated a clown on the top row of the bleachers. He was blowing bubbles and watching them drift across the heads of the audience. We heaved a collective sigh of relief. Suspense is fun. Excitement has its place. The need to breathe, though, is paramount. Because of the clown and the bubbles, we appreciated the exhilaration of the trapeze act that followed.

Let your readers breathe. Between your action scenes, tuck in a moment of contemplation. By giving your readers a slight rest, you can keep them turning the pages. You can keep them thankful for you and your writing.

PARTNERING WITH THE MARGARET MITCHELL HOUSE

The club has purchased a membership plan with the Margaret Mitchell House, enabling up to four club members to attend events hosted by the Center for Southern Literature. Please contact George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or gweinstein@yahoo.com if you would like to attend any of the following appearances, author talks, and book signings at the Margaret Mitchell House:

- Alice Walker—Nov. 14, 6 pm—relocated from the Margaret Mitchell House to the Atlanta History Center, 130 West Paces Ferry Road N.W., due to audience size.
- Nelson DeMille—Nov. 16, 6 pm
- Scott Turow—Nov. 20, 6 pm
- Richard Ford—Dec. 4, 6 pm
- Hank Klibanoff & Gene Roberts—Dec. 7, 6 pm

For more information about these speakers, please visit www.gwtw.org.
**CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUPS**

**Roswell: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.** The Atlanta Writers Club sponsors a critique at Nirvana Cafe and Grille 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.

**Midtown: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.** 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. From Buckhead, take Piedmont Road south. Cross over Monroe; the mall will be on your right.

**Lawrenceville/Snellville: 1st Saturday of the month.** This new group meets at 10 a.m. at the Barnes & Noble on 1350 Scenic Hwy Ste 100, Snellville 30078. Please contact facilitator Margaret Holden at mholdit@hotmail.com to be added to her reminder mailing list.

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

Chapter 11 Books is participating in the 15th Annual Book Festival of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, which is featuring 44 illustrious authors (from Brad Meltzer to Harold Kushner), 33 fabulous events, and 10 unforgettable days: November 11 – 20 at the MJCCA in Dunwoody, Georgia and select venues throughout metro Atlanta. See www.atlantajcc.org/bookfestival for details. For your convenience, all featured books of the Book Festival of the MJCCA are available for purchase at any Chapter 11 Books locations in and around the Atlanta area. Books may also be purchased online by visiting their website at www.chapter11books.com. (Please reference “MJCCA” in the comments line when purchasing books online, and mention “MJCCA” when purchasing in store. A portion of the proceeds from all sales will be donated to the MJCCA to ensure the future of events such as this.)

**CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS**

**Getting Published Seminar, March 23-24**

Individuals interested in participating as faculty in a two-day seminar on writing and getting published, to be held in conjunction with the Spring Book Show at the World Congress Center in Atlanta, on March 23-24 (Fri.-Sat.), 2007, are invited to submit an abstract of the topic they would like to cover. The one-page abstract should summarize the topic to be covered along with a brief description of qualifications of the presenter. For further information, send an email to custserv@anvilpub.com.

The final selection of faculty for the author seminars will be made by a panel involved in organizing the Spring Book Show. Faculty members whose abstracts are selected for presentation will be notified by December 15, 2006. Participants may elect to take part either as a member of a three-person panel in a 45-minute session (10-minute presentation plus 5-minute question and answer session), or may elect to make a longer standalone presentation (30-minute presentation plus 15 minutes for questions and answers.)
FREE TELESEMINAR ON NOVEMBER 14—REGISTER NOW!

AWC has partnered with Tara Y. Coyt, The Write Author Coach and founder of the GET IT WRITE Author’s Circle, to bring you a FREE program to introduce you to our January 20 speaker. Seasoned author and television and radio personality Robyn Spizman will reveal how to network your way to publishing success: from self-promotion to getting your foot in the door, what you can do to maximize the chances of getting published.

The FREE teleseminar will take place on Tuesday, November 14th at 1 pm. Tara will interview Robyn, who will be available afterward for your questions. The teleseminar will last for one hour. To participate, please follow these easy steps:

1. Register your name and contact information by clicking [http://www.thewriteauthorcoach.com/AWC%20teleseminar_registration_form.htm](http://www.thewriteauthorcoach.com/AWC%20teleseminar_registration_form.htm).
2. You will be given a toll-free number and passcode. On Nov. 14 at 1 pm, dial the number, enter the passcode when prompted, and announce yourself and where you’re calling from.

That's all there is to it! It's absolutely FREE to you. Schedule a 1 pm lunch at your office or home, listen in, and get all of your questions answered about how to network your way to publishing success. Register now!

FALL WRITING CONTESTS: THE REWARDS

By Richard Anderson, Contests VP

Does $50.00 interest you? That’s how much each of the first-place winners of our five fall contests will receive. Of course, you have to enter to win, and the deadline for me to receive your entries draws perilously near: 18 November 2006. See the entry submission rules on the next page.

As welcome as a few extra dollars might be, there are greater rewards from entering our writing contests. Often, our judges agree to comment on the merits or shortcomings of the entries. This can be invaluable, regardless if you win or not. An anthology of last fall’s first-place winners, along with judges’ comments, is available for purchase by contacting our president, George Weinstein, or at the club meeting.

Then there is the sense of validation for one’s writing that comes with a favorable comparison with one’s writer-peers. Whether it’s first, second, third place or even honorable mention, a contest award for good writing will motivate and inspire you for even bigger and better efforts. If you do not win you will resolve and strive to improve the next time around.

The greatest reward, though, is the writing. It’s another chance to write, to record an inspiring moment, to test your skills at various poetry forms, to tell your imaginative stories—and get paid. Doesn’t get better.
RULES FOR THE 2006 FALL WRITING CONTESTS

The Entry Deadline for Receiving Entries is 18 November 2006

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<th>Categories</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
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<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>3000 words</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td>3000 words</td>
<td>Any subject, any genre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juvenile Story</td>
<td>1500 words</td>
<td>Fiction or Nonfiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serious Poetry</td>
<td>60 lines</td>
<td>Any form, any subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light Verse (humor)</td>
<td>20 lines</td>
<td>Rhyming, metered (e.g. limerick)</td>
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Cash Prizes in all Categories! (Awarded at January 2007 meeting)

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<th>First Place</th>
<th>Second Place</th>
<th>Third Place</th>
<th>Honorable Mention</th>
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<td>$50</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Citation at judges’ discretion</td>
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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:
- $40 per member if receiving E-Quill newsletter by e-mail $___________
- $45 if receiving E-Quill newsletter by regular mail
- 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                                         Work
Phone________________________________       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: _____/_____/_____

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