



E-Quill

December 2006 Issue

Holiday Treats

Next Meeting: December 16, 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 – 1:45** *Club Business*: Announcements, new volunteer opportunities.
- **1:45 – 2:30** *Program #1*: Poet & novelist Joseph Bathanti discusses writing habits.
- **2:30 – 3:00** *Network & Speaker Book Signing*.
- **3:00 – 3:45** *Program #2*: Young-Adult Book Panel reveals how to get published.
- **3:45 – 4:30** *Network, Book Signings & 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 contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

MEETING LOCATION (LAST MEETING HERE!):
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>

See page 4 for details about our new location for January and beyond!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.atlantawritersclub.org

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

- **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 Spizman*—seasoned 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 Ocjee series of Southern novels.
- **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: “Gifts Aplenty”

by George Weinstein, President

You might not think that changing meeting locations is the best gift we could receive this holiday season, but if you attended any of our meetings this fall, you know that the room at the library seems to get smaller by the month. And we’re expecting our biggest turnout yet on December 16, when we’ll have noted poet, novelist, and educator Joseph Bathanti talking about writing nonfiction and poetry and revealing the habits of highly successful authors, along with three acclaimed writers of children’s and young adult fiction discussing how to break into this hot publishing market. Haven’t finished (or even started) your holiday shopping? Give the gift of books!

Give short stories too: as a bonus, Marc Fitten, editor of the *Chattahoochee Review*, will be on hand on December 16 to sell discounted subscriptions to his nationally recognized literary magazine. The *Chattahoochee Review*, which is sponsored by Georgia Perimeter College, has agreed to be the official literary magazine of The Atlanta Writers Club. This means that club members who subscribe to the *Review* will get the opportunity to attend special events sponsored by the magazine and meet famous authors, editors, and agents. Information about subscribing to the *Chattahoochee Review* is on page 4.

But, I repeat, the best present for all of us is a huge new space in which to meet. For those of you who were not among the 75 attending the November meeting, here’s the scoop: thanks to our November speaker, Jack Riggs, and Ginger Collins, our 1st VP and Program Chair who initiated this issue with him, we will start meeting as of January 20, 2007 at Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) in Dunwoody. The campus is providing us with access to the conference room they use for banquets and special celebrations (their new president was honored there in October).

To celebrate our good fortune, and to enable you to become accustomed to the new commute without the pressure of getting to a meeting on time, we’re hosting an Open House in the conference room at GPC on Saturday, December 9 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. See page 4 for driving directions, a link to maps on the GPC website, and details about what we’ll discuss on December 9.

Detail-oriented readers will note the multiple connections with Georgia Perimeter College. Don’t panic. GPC doesn’t own us or influence any of our decisions. We have merely partnered with GPC to advance our primary goals, which are to provide benefits to current members and attract new members. What does GPC get out of the partnership? Exposure. Their students can join AWC and learn from writing and publishing professionals; club members can learn about writing courses offered by GPC; and the community can continue to develop itself as a literary hub in the Atlanta area, with GPC and AWC at its center. It’s a good deal all around.

I hope you’ll join me for the Open House on December 9 at GPC and return one final time to the Sandy Springs Library on December 16 for our stellar holiday meeting. The gifts keep on comin’.

OFFICER LIST FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB—2006-2007 Term:

President: George Weinstein
Membership VP: Kate Copsey
Publicity VP: Jim Stevens
Contests VP: Richard Anderson

First VP: Ginger Collins
Treasurer: Adrian Drost
Operations VP: OPEN
Quill Editor: George Weinstein

OTHER CONTACTS:

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

Photographers: Adrian Drost, Mike Buchanan
Poetry Editor: Dorothy Worth
Achievements: Fran Stewart

DECEMBER SPEAKER INTERVIEWS

by Ginger B. Collins, First VP & Program Chair

“WRITE WELL AND PUBLISHERS WILL FIND YOU”

When Joseph Bathanti moved from his native Pittsburg to work with North Carolina inmates as a Vista Volunteer in 1976, his only brush with the law had been a speeding ticket. But after teaching and conducting writing classes in the prison system for 29 years, Joseph now speaks from experience. “Prison is a place where astonishing things happen. It is such a surreal world.” Joseph is now a professor of creative writing at Appalachian State University, and has used this surreal world as the setting for his latest novel, *COVENTRY*, published by Novello Festival Press.

As our 1:45pm speaker on December 16th, Joseph will read from *COVENTRY*, described as a “literary page-turner” that follows a second-generation prison guard who is at odds with the value of incarceration. He will also share poems from his most recent book of poetry, *THIS METAL*, and he will discuss ways writers can create a writing routine to keep up the momentum. “Join a writing club. Take master classes. Become part of the local writing community,” Joseph advises. “Establish relationships and keep writing.”

Chapter 11 will have Joseph’s books for sale, and Joseph will be available to sign copies and talk more about the writing life during the networking portion of the meeting. Don’t miss this talented and inspiring author.

For our 3 o’clock program we’ve gathered a panel of writers who specialize in the children’s and young adult market. They are seasoned authors who know how to write for their audience, and have been successful at marketing to the gatekeepers (libraries, schools, parents, grandparents) who stand between the book and the reader.

Mary Ann Rodman is the author of *YANKEE GIRL* (Farrar Straus & Giroux), *MY BEST FRIEND* (Viking Press), and *FIRST GRADE STINKS* (Peachtree Publishers.) From pre-school picture books to a pre-teen novel that addresses race relations in the ’60s, her books are best-selling stories of friendship, loyalty, and courage.

Alan Gratz loves baseball, but his *SAMURAI SHORTSTOP* (Dial Division of Penguin Press) is more than just a young-adult baseball story. The book is a Junior Library Guild Selection, and in a starred review *Booklist* called it, “a testament to enduring values in a time of social change.”

Elizabeth Lenhard has written two books for the young teen audience, *CHICKS WITH STICKS (IT’S A PURL THING)* and the follow up, *CHICKS WITH STICKS (KNIT TWO TOGETHER)*, both published by Dutton Juvenile. Stories unfold as four teens from uncommon backgrounds bond over knitting. The books follow the friendships and offer enticing patterns for knitters of all levels.

If writing for this audience is your passion, and you thought self-publishing was the only way to go, you’ll find their words inspiring and educational. Chapter 11 will have books for sale after the panel. Talk with the authors and pick up personalized gifts for your holiday list.

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.

NEW MEETING LOCATION AS OF JANUARY 20, 2007**OPEN HOUSE ON DECEMBER 9, 2006**

The Atlanta Writers Club has a huge new conference space in which to meet each month, on the second floor of the Student Affairs/Library building on the Dunwoody campus of Georgia Perimeter College.

To celebrate this partnership between AWC and GPC, and to allow you to become accustomed to the new commute without the pressure of getting to a meeting on time, we're hosting an Open House at the new location on Saturday, December 9, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm.

During the Open House, we'll discuss plans for attracting new members in 2007 and adding to the benefits for existing members. We'll be looking for more volunteers to help with the Dahlonga Literary Festival and Writers Conference on Feb. 17-18; the annual conference of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs, February 28-March 3; the Dogwood Festival on April 13-15; our June picnic with authors Patti Callahan Henry and Mary Alice Monroe; a possible writers retreat; and any ideas for activities that you pitch.

On January 20, 2007, we'll hold our first official meeting in the new location with two great speakers: Robyn Spizman, a seasoned author and TV/radio personality who will discuss self-promotion, and Walter Sorrells, who has been published under many pen names and in a variety of markets. He will give outstanding advice about how to make a living as a writer.

Directions to the Dunwoody Campus of Georgia Perimeter College:

From I-285 (Northern Arc), take Exit 30 (N. Peachtree Rd./N. Shallowford Rd./Chamblee Dunwoody Rd.) and go north on N. Peachtree Rd. Turn left on Tilly Mill Rd. and then left on Womack Rd. Turn left into GPC.

From GA-400 South, take Exit 6, Northridge Rd., turn right at top of ramp, and turn right on Roberts Dr. (**If heading north on GA-400**, take Exit 6 and go straight through the light onto Roberts Dr.). From Roberts Dr., stay on it as it turns into Chamblee Dunwoody Rd and then take a left on Womack Rd. GPC will be about two miles down, on the right.

From Highway 9/Roswell Rd. in Sandy Springs, go east on Mount Vernon Rd. Turn right on Chamblee Dunwoody Rd and left on Womack Rd. GPC will be about two miles down, on the right.

Park in the large student lot on the left. We meet on the 2nd floor of the Student Building/Library, which is located at the top of the circular drive. Walk around the left side of the building and up the ramp to the side entrance.

For GPC's street and campus maps, click: http://www.gpc.edu/Campus_Maps/Dunwoody.html

DISCOUNT SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE CHATTAHOOCHEE REVIEW

The nationally recognized literary magazine *Chattahoochee Review* has agreed to be the official literary magazine of The Atlanta Writers Club. Club members who subscribe to the *Review* will get the opportunity to attend special events sponsored by the magazine—such as an invitation-only party at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs annual conference in March—and meet famous authors, editors, and agents.

To subscribe, click www.gpc.edu/~gpccr/subscriptions.php, scroll to the bottom (E-Subscriptions), click "Buy Now From CCNow," and be sure to note that you're an Atlanta Writers Club member under Special Instructions. You'll get four printed issues for only \$9!

MEMBER PROFILES—IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Kate Copsey

I am a new resident of the Roswell area, from Pittsburgh, PA. I grew certified organic herbs for many years, before turning, two years ago, to writing about herbs, and gardening in general. We have four boys ranging from 11 to 24, so I have done a few articles on children and parenting too. My prime focus is consumer magazines, but I enjoy the newspaper side of writing too as it enables me to respond quickly to local situations. The website www.katecopsey.com links to the articles, online blogs, and full resume.

Clay Ramsey

Clay Ramsey has a degree in English Literature from Princeton, but has only recently been willing to think of himself as a writer, composing for sheer pleasure and not because of the demands of school or work. He has co-authored several scientific papers in his current job as a researcher at Emory, has written some theological articles, and enjoys writing short stories and poems, but is anxious to write more, publish more, and explore the possibilities of the writing life. He is grateful to the Decatur Book Festival for introducing him to the delightful, committed community of writers in the AWC.

GET READY FOR THE DAHLONEGA LITERARY FESTIVAL & WRITERS CONFERENCE

The 4th Annual Dahlonega Literary Festival and 1st Annual Writers Conference 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 do book signings. The writers conference will be running in tandem with the festival, so AWC members who register can also attend seminars on character, plot, query letter writing, finding agents, etc., presented by best-selling writers such as Diana Gabaldon, Cassandra King, Mary Kay Andrews (Kathy Hogan Trocheck), Patti Callahan Henry, and Brian Jay Corrigan. Registration information will be presented at the club meeting December 16 and in the January and February issues of The E-Quill.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

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

Sara Hines Martin spoke and did book-signings at the Blue Ridge Public Library and at the regional library in Young Harris. She had one article published in the current issue of *400 Edition* and was the subject of another article in that issue.

Alissa Dunn is having a book signing on December 9th at the Brookshire Community Main Clubhouse, 9am-12pm, with Breakfast with Santa. This is on Ashland Parkway in Woodstock, GA in the Brookshire subdivision off Old Rope Mill Road. Breakfast is open to residents of the Brookshire community only. The signing with Alissa is open to everyone!

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

“Resolutions for the Third Time” by Fran Stewart

Two years ago I wrote resolutions in December. Last year I revised them. This year I think I’ll ditch the resolutions and talk about spaghetti. Not exactly your usual holiday fare.

More than a dozen years ago, for reasons we won’t go into right now, I went through a major depressive phase of my life. One of the symptoms was a complete inability to plan even the most rudimentary of menus. I ended up, for weeks in a row, feeding my family spaghetti every evening. Not a pretty picture at all. When they actively rebelled, I switched to macaroni. And I cut up green onions to put in the store-bought sauce.

Yes, I finally did get much-needed help. And I swore, when I started writing murder mysteries, that I would never let my books turn into spaghetti for every meal. Formula writing, with plotting that is so predictable the reader hardly has to finish the book, is the bane of every series writer. The best way to avoid formulaic writing, I think, is to create characters that grow and learn and make mistakes (just not the same ones in each book). Look at the action sequence in your first book. Does your detective argue with her fiancé, trust the wrong person, walk into a potentially compromising situation, find herself in a life-and-death situation as a result, shoot somebody, reunite with her fiancé? Does she then follow this sequence in every single book in the series? If the answer is yes, get yourself a better editor. Even if you have green onions in there, and macaroni, your readers will know it’s pasta once again.

You could, however, have your detective travel to Italy and eat spaghetti as a holiday meal. Then it’s not the same old routine. It’s fresh. It’s appetizing. It’s something new.

PARTNERING WITH THE MARGARET MITCHELL HOUSE

The club has purchased a membership plan with the Margaret Mitchell House (www.gwtw.org), 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 gjweinstein@yahoo.com if you would like to attend any of the following appearances, author talks, and book signings:

- Hank Klibanoff & Gene Roberts, *The Race Beat*—Dec. 7, 6 pm
- Holiday Concert with Terry Kay, *To Whom the Angel Spoke*—Dec. 14, 5 pm

NOVEMBER 14 TELESEMINAR ON WEBSITE

Did You Miss the Nov. 14 Teleclass or Do You Want to Hear It Again? The Audio File Link Is On-line! Hear Tara Coyt of TheWriteAuthorCoach.com interview our January 20, 2007 speaker Robyn Spizman. Robyn—a radio/TV personality and the co-author of the "Author 101" series—answers these questions and more:

- When should an author begin to think about publicity?
- What's the best way for a unknown author to get publicity?

Whether you've published a number of books and are looking for some insider marketing tips, or are getting started and want to know the basics, Robyn has something to tell you. To listen to the audio file, click this link: <http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/events.html> and then click the arrow on the left side of the gold BYOAUDIO.COM bar. It's absolutely free--enjoy!

CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUPS

Conyers: an **all-genre** group meets **Sundays, 6-8 pm** at the Starbucks inside Target. E-mail Jack Thomas at editor@rewriteright.com or call him at 770-464-3561 to get on his distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Decatur: a **fiction** group meets **Saturdays, 10 am – noon**, currently at the Atlanta Bread Company on Ponce de Leon, near the Decatur Library. E-mail Ricky Jacobs at rjacobs@townsquare.net or call him at 404-378-7365 to get on his distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Decatur: a **non-fiction** group meets **Thursdays, 7-9 pm** at The Java Monkey. E-mail Cynthia Blakeley at cdblakeley@aol.com or call her at 404-377-1170 to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Lawrenceville: an **all-genre**, non-AWC-affiliated group meets **Fridays, 10 am – 12:30 pm** at the Crafty Confection Sweet Shop on the square the East-West Connector in Austell. E-mail AWC member Barbara Connor at imayaya@charter.net or call her at 678-226-1483 to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Lawrenceville/Snellville: an **all-genre** group meets **Saturdays, 10 am - noon** at Borders on Scenic Highway in Snellville. E-mail Margaret Holden at mholdit@hotmail.com to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Marietta/Austell: an **all-genre** group meets **Tuesdays, 7-9 pm** at Borders on the East-West Connector in Austell. E-mail Janean Brown at shauntebrown@bellsouth.net or call her at 678-627-9979 to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Midtown: a **fiction** group meets **Sundays, 3-5 pm** at Borders near City Hall East. E-mail Heather Newton at hfnewton@yahoo.com or call her at 404-642-8855 to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Midtown/Buckhead: an **all-genre** group meets **Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm** at Chapter 11 at the Ansley Mall. E-mail Patricia Patterson at p.e.patterson@att.net or call her at 404-842-0824 to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

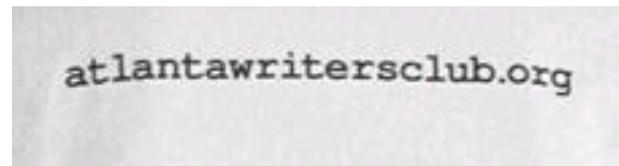
Roswell: an **all-genre** group meets on **Wednesdays, 6-8 pm** at Nirvana Café on Hwy 92. E-mail George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com or call him at 770-552-5887 to get on his distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Sandy Springs: an **all-genre** group meets on **Tuesdays, 10 am- noon** at the Sandy Springs Library. E-mail Pat Wells at ptwells@comcast.net or call her at 678-731-9797 to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

PARTNERING WITH CHAPTER 11 BOOKSTORE IN SANDY SPRINGS

George Scott from Chapter 11 Books will be on hand on Saturday, December 16, to handle sales of books by Joseph Bathanti, Mary Ann Rodman, Alan Gratz, and Elizabeth Lenhard.

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 Phone _____ Cell/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: ____/____/____