



E-Quill

May 2007 Issue
An All-Star Welcome
to Summer

Next Meeting: May 19, 2007

- 12:30 – 1:15 *Networking: Make new contacts and new friends*
- 1:15 – 1:30 *Announcing the Spring Contest Winners: Tara Coyt will present the awards*
- 1:30 – 1:45 *Club Business: June picnic & July & August workshops*
- 1:45 – 2:30 *Program #1: Bestseller David Fulmer on the secrets of the mystery genre*
- 2:30 – 3:00 *Networking & Book Signing*
- 3:00 – 3:45 *Program #2: Top Southern author and blogger Joshilyn Jackson on making the best use of the Internet to market your books*
- 3:45 – 4:30 *Networking, Book Signing & 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.

Non-members are always welcome to visit one meeting for free; to promote membership, we charge visitors \$10 each time thereafter.

MEETING LOCATION:

2nd Floor of Student Building on Dunwoody Campus of Georgia Perimeter College: 2101 Womack Road, Dunwoody, GA 30338. Campus is a mile north of I-285 (northern arc). Detailed directions in this newsletter, on our website, or on <http://mapsonus.switchboard.com>

*FOR DIRECTIONS, CLUB INFORMATION
AND MORE—*

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.atlantawritersclub.org

2007 Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings (12:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.):

- **May 19, 2007** *David Fulmer*—best-selling novelist and educator on writing craft
Joshilyn Jackson—Southern author and blogger extraordinaire
- **June 16, 2007** *Annual Picnic*—held behind Student Building at Georgia Perimeter College
- **July 21, 2007** *AWC Workshop*—The Craft of Poetry, led by Dana Wildsmith
- **August 18, 2007** *AWC Workshop & Pitch-slam*—Deidre Knight & Elaine Spencer on getting an agent and a book deal
- **September 15, 2007** *Sheri Joseph*—author and creative writing professor
Freelance Writing for Commercial Magazines—panel of experts
- **October 20, 2007** 1st Program—To be announced
Jackie Cooper & Susan Colegrove—“accidental” authors on fate, luck & timing
- **November 17, 2007** To be announced

WRITE IT AS YOU SEE IT: “Time Enough At Last”**by George Weinstein, President**

Take a look at the list of board members below (and their biographical sketches on pages 6-7) and you'll see a number of new names, including Gene Bowen's for the Newsletter Editor position. Gene is a real pro who will give our E-Quill a smart, classy new look starting with the June issue. Having found replacements for all my jobs within the club, you might wonder if I'm contemplating a complete disappearing act. Quite the contrary—the fun has only begun.

After the May meeting, I will step aside for your new president, Marty Aftewicz, and then I'll get to do the kinds of special projects I never had time for previously. Here's a sampling:

- Further involvement with the Atlanta literary community: you've already received my e-mail about the AJC petition and the demonstration on May 3 at 10 a.m. We'll make great contacts there, get media exposure, and add our presence to a worthy cause. I'll be looking for more “trifecta” opportunities in the months to come.
- Hosting a speaker panel at the 2007 Decatur Book Festival (September 1-2): The club will be hosting novelist and poet (and October 2006 AWC headliner) Darnell Arnout and the other three members of her critique group—all published, each with a book coming out this year—on the power of strong, supportive critique groups.
- Putting together a Writers Mart: based on the overwhelming support for Deidre Knight's scheduled pitch-slam session in August, we know there's a desire for a full-day program like this. I will work with Ginger Collins (who's also on “special assignment”) to bring in a number of top agents and editors who'll talk about the latest publishing industry news and trends, answer your questions, and take pitch appointments.
- Establishing a yearly writers retreat: a weekend getaway in the Georgia mountains or at the beach with a top author or agent who can help us perfect our craft and hone our industry savvy.
- Taking up the cause of adult literacy: fifty percent of people in the U.S. read below an 8th-grade level and 20% read below a 4th-grade level. And this tragedy is only worsening. Fewer readers = fewer book sales = fewer writers needed. We must reverse this trend and help turn more adults into lovers of books.
- Leading a fundraiser to replace the 1920s AWC plaque stolen from the Piedmont Park Author's Grove in 1999. (The club had planted over forty trees there, between 10th and 14th St.) This will also be a chance to get involved with other community organizations.

I want to thank my fellow officers, our ever-increasing number of members and guests, and our speakers for making the past three years a joy and a profound learning experience. Come out on May 19 not to say goodbye but to celebrate what we've done and what we still want to do.

THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB BOARD

President: Marty Aftewicz
Membership VP: Kate Copsey
Publicity VP: Jim Stevens
Contests VP: Tara Coyt
Social Director: Janean Brown

First VP: Bonita Young
Treasurer: John Sheffield
Operations VP: Clay Ramsey
Marketing VP: Bill Black
E-Quill Editor: Gene Bowen

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Historian/By-Laws: Adrian Drost **Photographer:** Gene Bowen **PR/Open Mic:** Patricia Patterson
E-Quill Copy Editor: Jessica León **Achievements:** Fran Stewart

MAY SPEAKER INTERVIEWS

by Bonita Young, Program Chair, 1st VP

Best-selling author David Fulmer takes the Atlanta Writers Club stage from 1:45 – 2:30 on May 19 to not only enlighten us on his knowledge of working with agents and publishers, he plans to astound us with the elements of writing effective mysteries. This thrilling know-how is based on his experience in writing such suspenseful tales as *Chasing the Devil's Tail*, which won a Shamus Award in 2002, along with nominations for a Los Angeles Times Book Prize, a Falcon Award, and a Barry Award, and was selected for Borders "Best of 2003 List." His novel *Jass*, the second Storyville mystery, was selected for the Best of 2005 lists by *Library Journal* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and won the Georgia Author of the Year Award for Fiction. *Rampart Street*, also a BBC America audiobook, was published in January of 2006. Fulmer's novel, *The Dying Crapshooter's Blues* was published in January of 2007.

His screenplays have reached the finals of the Nicholls Fellowship and Writers Network competitions. Among his production credits is the documentary *Blind Willie's Blues*. In giving the documentary a four-star "Editor's Choice" rating, *Video Librarian* called it "nothing less than the economic, social, and historical evolution of America's indigenous music." It earned a nomination for W.C. Handy Award in 1998. *Blind Willie's Blues—Atlanta Strut* was broadcast on Public Broadcasting Atlanta in May 2007.

Included in his long list of newspaper and magazine credits are features on blues and jazz for *The Atlanta Journal & Constitution*, *Atlanta Magazine*, *Blues Access*, and National Public Radio. A native of the small town of Northumberland in the Susquehanna Valley of eastern Pennsylvania, he now lives in Atlanta with his daughter Italia. Visit his website: <http://www.davidfulmer.com/>.

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For those of you non-web-savvy writers, the latest Internet trend is...to Blog or not to Blog. Blog is short for "web log." It is simply a public online journal (or newsletter)...in other words, an open book of your latest and greatest thoughts. Blogs are updated often using software that allows people with little or no technical background to maintain their blog. The author posts informal journal entries of their thoughts, opinions, comments, and philosophical reflections on the Internet. Basically, blogs reflect the personality or views of the blog's creator, and is intended for general public consumption.

During our 3:00 to 3:45 session, Atlanta Writers Club members and guests will consume the bloggings of best-selling author Joshilyn Jackson. She will guide us on how she makes the best use of the World Wide Web to keeps her readers coming back for more of her wise and interesting tales.

Novelist Joshilyn Jackson lives in Powder Springs, Georgia, with her husband. Her short fiction has appeared in anthologies and literary magazines like *TriQuarterly* and *Calyx*. Her debut novel, *Gods in Alabama*, won The Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance 2005 Novel of the Year award and her follow up, *Between, Georgia*, won a Listen Up award from Publisher's Weekly. Both books were the #1 BookSense picks for the month of their release and chosen as the Books-A-Million Book Club Pick. Her third novel, *The Girl Who Stopped Swimming*, will be published in March of 2008. You can visit her on the web and read her blog at <http://joshilynjackson.com>.

DIRECTIONS TO OUR MEETING LOCATION

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

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 (Lot #10) on the left. You do NOT need to stop at Security to get a visitor sticker. We meet on the 2nd floor of the Student Building (labeled “NB”), 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

CRITIQUE GROUP OPPORTUNITY AT GPC

The Writers’ Circle critique group has met at Georgia Perimeter College’s Dunwoody Campus for 18 years. They meet on the first and third Friday of each month from 2-4 in room NLRC 3100 on the second floor of the library. Participants may read up to 3 pages, (12 pts., double-spaced, 8 copies) or may simply discuss a writing project. All levels and genres are welcome, and meetings are FREE. Visit <http://www.gpc.edu/~duniss/WritersCircle.htm>. Contact: Nancy McDaniel at 770-274-5243 or facilitator Gelia Dolcimascolo at 770-274-5246. The Writers’ Circle is also a pod of the Georgia Writers Association.

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 <http://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!

RSVP NOW FOR JUNE 16 ANNUAL PICNIC AND SAVE \$\$!

Everyone loves a picnic!

How about a picnic with two best-selling authors + great food? Yes, authors eat too! Plan to attend The Atlanta Writers Club picnic this year on Saturday, June 16, at 1 p.m. on the campus of Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody. We will serve barbecue wings, grilled hamburgers & hot dogs, and veggie burgers & fruit salad for those so inclined. But you can't always eat healthy! Indulge in some homemade peach cobbler, baked beans, corn on the cob, and sneak a cookie to live dangerously.

Here's our complete menu:

Chicken Sausage, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Wings, Veggie Burgers, Fruit Salad, Veggie Salad w/ Various Dressings, Baked Beans (meatless), Potato Salad, Corn on Cob, Sliced Cheese & Other Fixings, Bottled Water & Soft Drinks, Homemade Peach Cobbler, and Sugar, Peanut Butter, and Chocolate Chip Cookies.

Enjoy some or all of this while you are listening to readings by Patti Callahan Henry, with her soon-to-be-published novel, *Between the Tides*, a low-country story filled with tender characters and lessons of life, plus Mary Alice Monroe, with her newly released heartwarming story, *Swimming Lessons*, about how lives can change over one summer. Meet them; eat with them; register now for this great opportunity from AWC!

\$9 per person for early registration; children under six attend free. Send your check, payable to The Atlanta Writers Club, to Marty Aftewicz at 1263 Fairfield East, Dunwoody, GA 30338 or pay on-line using the PayPal link at <http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/events.html>. You can also pay Marty at the May 19 meeting. If you have questions, please call Marty at 770-395-6587 or send e-mail to martyaga@gmail.com. RSVP now—the price goes up to \$15/person at the door.

REGISTER FOR THE JULY 21 POETRY WORKSHOP

Dana Wildsmith has been cited by Terry Kay as one of the best poets in Georgia. She will present a three-hour workshop on the craft of poetry on July 21 from 1-4 pm, in lieu of our regular club meeting.

The cost is \$35 per person. To register, send your check, payable to *The Atlanta Writers Club*, to George Weinstein at 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075 or pay on-line using the PayPal link at <http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/events.html>. You can also pay George at the May 19 meeting or at the June 16 picnic. If you have questions, please call 770-552-5887 or send e-mail to gjweinstein@yahoo.com.

INTRODUCING THE NEW AWC BOARD MEMBERS

Marty Aftewicz—President

Marty has been passionate about writing all his life, but his corporate career and family distracted from these ambitions until recent years. Marty co-authored a non-fiction book on Internet Marketing in 1995, and is currently working on a consumer mortgage guide and a few other projects. A new member of the AWC, he is enthused about working with the AWC board to continue the growth pattern established in the past few years.

Bill Black—VP of Marketing

This is also a job he does (without the fancy title and perks) for Hills & Dales Estate, in LaGrange. A recent transplant, he comes to Georgia by way of Richmond, Virginia, and The Outer Banks of North Carolina. He has a theatre design and broadcasting background, and is working on finding a suitable theatre for the two plays he's written.

Gene Bowen—E-Quill Newsletter Editor

As a native Georgian, Gene has lived in the Atlanta area since he was four years old. He attended Georgia State University, married early, and raised three daughters. He is now divorced and has five grandchildren. His partner, Karen, works as an independent jewelry appraiser, while he looks for a new business venture. They are writing a couple of books to expose the corruption they experienced in the e-Bay drop-off-store franchise market.

Janean Brown—Social Director

Always a lover of literature, Janean was first published at the age of 16 when she ghostwrote a paper for her mother's college English course. Janean joined the club last May and has since been published in several journals, including *My Black Hollywood Magazine*, *Parent Guide News*, and *My Travel Guide Magazine*. Currently, Janean enjoys writing romance fiction, non-fiction articles, and screenplays. As Social Director for the club, Janean hopes to welcome new and old members by introducing exciting events to encourage socializing and fun for all AWC functions.

Kate Copey—Membership VP

Kate is new to freelance writing, but over the last few years has written regular garden articles for a northern Virginia weekly and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette as well as two large Internet sites. Kate was president of the county Master Gardener Association (Indiana) for two years, and sat on the national board of the Herb Society as regional membership delegate. Both of these positions involved retention of membership as well as increasing membership numbers, two goals that she has for our club as well.

(continued on next page)

INTRODUCING THE NEW AWC BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Tara Coyt—Contest VP

Tara believes in the power of the written word. Known as The Write Author Coach, Tara helps aspiring and existing authors by sharing her best talents: writing, strategic development, marketing, and creativity. In addition to publishing her own works and creating marketing messages for corporations, entrepreneurs, and speakers, Tara has written for *Atlanta Magazine*, *Catalyst Magazine*, *Rolling Out Magazine*, *the Atlanta Voice*, *Black MBA Magazine*, and *The Association Book*.

Clay Ramsey—VP of Operations

Clay was born and raised in Atlanta, has published non-fiction articles, works at Emory, is married, and lives in Decatur. He enjoys writing short stories and poems and aspires to write novels. He is thrilled to be associated with the AWC and looks forward to working on the Board to improve the experience for everyone.

Dr. John Sheffield—Treasurer

John writes novels and short stories when he's not looking for opportunities—and improved options—for fusion energy as Senior Fellow in the Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment at the University of Tennessee. He has self-published a novel, *Marienna's Fantasy*, and collaborated with other authors on an anthology of short stories and poetry called *North Point of View: Tales of Alpharetta and Beyond*. He is also the author of numerous articles, reviews, and scientific texts.

Jim Stevens—VP of Publicity

Jim retired from a 30+ year career in corporate advertising, PR, marketing communications and event management to form his own writing services company, Outsource Communications, Inc. Jim writes feature articles for newspapers including *The Dunwoody Crier*, *Cobb Life* magazine, and *Coal People* magazine, an international publication for the coal mining industry. In 2003, his first novel, *Coal Cracker Blues*, was published and optioned for a screenplay. Jim's second novel, *Life Could Be a Dream* is making the rounds in the publishing houses of New York.

George Weinstein—Past President (non-voting member of the Board)

George is pleased to step aside after three years as president and E-Quill editor so he can focus on special projects for the club.

Bonita Young—First VP & Program Chair

Bonita is an Atlanta native and single mom. By day, she tackles medical research data; by night, she retreats to the solitude of her secret thoughts and vivid imagination as a writer. Bonita's debut novel, published in 2006, is entitled *Our DADDY, Their FATHER*.

NETWORK WITH AWC MEMBERS

Do you need a lumberjack? Would you prefer using someone you know rather than a stranger from those yellow, red, or white directories?

The AWC will attempt a trial Networking Table at our May 19 meeting. Perhaps we have no lumberjacks in our membership, but we do have many business categories represented among our 230+ members. Perhaps there is someone in our group who provides a service or expertise, or sells a product that is exactly what you need. Or you may need to speak with an expert in a particular field for research on a writing project.

Therefore, we will allow members to place business cards on a table designated for this purpose. The club does not endorse these services, but will make this available as a courtesy and benefit of membership. This will also allow other members to know a bit more about each other, even if we don't need the particular service or product.

The table will permit business cards only; no flyers, brochures, etc. It is your responsibility to replenish your business cards and remove any extras at the end of the meeting. Also, we ask you to maintain the focus of our meetings on our programs, and appreciate your cooperation.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

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

Mike Buchanan received the following press in the AJC about his current screenplay:

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/northfulton/stories/2007/04/25/0426nfxmovie.html>

Ginger Collins won 2nd place in the Lunch Hour Stories 2006 Very Short Story Contest and will be published in their contest chapbook.

Lynda Fitzgerald's upcoming novel, *If Truth Be Told*, will be released in June by Five Star, a division of Thompson-Gale. It is on Amazon for preorders (www.fitzgeraldwrites.com).

HEAR UPCOMING SPEAKER JACKIE K. COOPER ON MAY 6

Our October 20 speaker Jackie Kershaw Cooper will be the guest on "Cover To Cover." This is the monthly book show hosted by St John Flynn on all Georgia Public Broadcasting radio stations. The show will air on Sunday, May 6 at 10 am. Jackie will be talking about his latest book, *The Bookbinder*. You can also listen on line at <http://www.gpb.org/public/radio/index.jsp>

PUBLISH & SELL YOUR WORK ON "AMAZON SHORTS"

Amazon Shorts features previously unpublished short-form fiction and nonfiction for sale exclusively at Amazon.com. Fiction and nonfiction pieces on a wide variety of topics are available in a digital format only for just \$0.49. In order to be eligible for participation you must be a published author with at least one book currently for sale on Amazon.com. For details click:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/feature/-/570212>

MEMBER PROFILES—IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Sharon Askew

I earned a BA in Journalism from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2002 and moved to Atlanta in the summer of 2003. While studying in Chapel Hill, I took various writing courses to earn a minor in Creative Writing, wrote feature articles for the campus magazine *The Blue & White* and worked as a proofreader for a local writer. I'm currently a project manager for a retail marketing company and write recreationally. Because I am still trying to find my writing niche, I joined the AWC to learn more about the craft and opportunities to be published. I'm enjoying meeting and learning from other Atlanta-based writers.

BOOK SWAPPIN' WITH AWC SOCIAL DIRECTOR, JANEAN BROWN

Lookin' for a good book? Don't waste time buying a book you may not like. Take a book for a spin with the Atlanta Writers Club Book Swap. Trade in one of your favorites at our monthly meeting for a brand new book—well not brand new, but nearly new. If you're interested, simply check-in your book with Janean Brown at our next meeting and she'll make sure your book finds a good home. Peruse any books collected for a taste of something different!

PARTNERING WITH THE MARGARET MITCHELL HOUSE

The club has purchased a membership plan with the Margaret Mitchell House (<http://www.gwtw.org/>), enabling up to four club members to attend events (free unless otherwise noted) 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:

- May 3rd Sy Montgomery - *The Good Good Pig*
- May 8th Lisa Alther - *Kinfolks*
- May 9th Robert Olmstead - *Coal Black Horse*
- May 15th Robert Coram - *American Patriot: The Life and Wars of Colonel Bud Day*
- May 16th Christopher Hitchens - *God Is Not Great*
- May 17th Beverly Daniel Tatum - *Can We Talk About Race?*

AUGUST 18 WORKSHOP & PITCH-SLAM

To make amends for the miscommunication in April, Deidre Knight has offered a special, extra-long program on Saturday, August 18, that will feature not only her but her fellow agent from The Knight Agency, Elaine Spencer. This event is free to members and first-time guests. Here are the events that day:

- Deidre and Elaine each will hear ten 8-minute book pitches. Note: appointments are full (they filled up less than ten hours after announcing them!) and a standby list is full as well.
- Deidre will conduct a 90-minute workshop featuring her insider's insights about how to find an agent, the process an agent follows when shopping a manuscript to publishers, contract gotchas, and what an agent does after the publishing contract is signed.
- Deidre will sign her three paranormal romance novels afterward and also announce how to query her and Elaine if you have a second project to pitch or didn't get a chance to pitch in person. She'll give you an e-mail address for your query along with the magic words to put on the subject line so it gets past the gatekeepers and reaches her and Elaine.

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

“Mother, May I?” by Fran Stewart

May you? Of course you may, if you’re a writer. That’s the beauty of the writing life. We can take any character, any situation, any setting, and churn out a complete world. We can invent towns, people, crimes, romances – we can even change history to suit our needs, as long as we understand that first drafts (or second or third or twenty-fourth drafts) will eventually need to be honed to a marketable level.

How much can we invent? As much as we care to. As much as we’re capable of inventing. How much can we get published, though? Ahh, to quote the master, “there’s the rub.”

I’m currently in the process of mentoring two very different young people, early teens both of them. The boy’s book is a World War II action drama, filled with airplanes and people falling off cliffs, with guns and grenades. This morning we met at the library, and he told me he was reading Grisham’s *The Firm*. “A lot of the paragraphs are just one sentence long,” he said.

“And, why do you think that is?”

He thought a moment. “Maybe because that’s how people talk?”

In that light-bulb moment, he grew as a writer. His next draft, I dare say, will approach more closely that illusion of reality we, as writers, try to impart. It’s not just dialogue, although that, as you know, is vital in any novel. So we’ll keep working on getting the conversations ironed out and, on top of that, we’ll tackle the *sense of place*. I gave him an assignment. “After you finish *The Firm*,” I said, “read *Airborn* by Ken Oppel, and watch not only the way Oppel handles dialogue, but the way he sets us firmly into the picture by evoking such vivid settings.” I can’t wait to see his cliff and his airplane hanger next time we meet.

The girl’s book is an epic set on the frozen tundra, peopled (if you’ll excuse that term) with reindeer and wolves, with bears and hawks. She and I met last week. That library sees a lot of me.

“Do you think my character names are too confusing?” she asked.

That was easy. A one-word answer.

“But they all mean something,” she objected, even though she was the one who had asked in the first place. “The reindeer language is quite complex.”

“Yes, you’ve set it up that way,” I told her. “Your average reader, though, is not going to care whether this name is a derivative of that name. If they’re too much alike, you simply confuse your reader.”

“But . . .”

But is the war cry of a writer who wants to justify a story line, a scene, some dialogue, a description, a name. *But* is very seldom valid. The reader who gets confused is never wrong. The reader is simply confused, most often because the writer was being obtuse, vague, esoteric, or negligent. If we hide a fact, we must put in a clue, a foreshadowing, and an explanation. Otherwise, we’re not being fair to our readers. If we invent a language or a country, we must make it workable in the minds of our readers.

So, the question remains. Mother, may I?

Yes, you may—but your editor, with the well-being of your reader in mind, may make you change it.

CLUB-SPONSORED CRITIQUE GROUPS

Conyers: An **all-genre** group meets **Sundays, 6-8 pm** at Bernie Blanton's home. E-mail Ms. Blanton at brblanton@earthlink.net or call her at 770-602-1567 to get on her 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 standby list; this group is full, but if there's an opening, please let Ricky know you want to be considered.

Decatur: a **non-fiction** group meets **Tuesdays, 7-9 pm** at Decatur Renaissance Condos on east Ponce de Leon. 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 Crogan Street on the historic village square. 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 Barnes & Noble on Scenic Highway in Snellville. E-mail Ken Schmanski at kschmanski@yahoo.com or call him at 770-338-8602 to get on his 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.

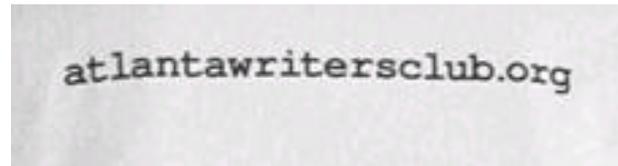
Midtown: a **fiction** group is in need of new leadership and participants. E-mail George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com or call him at 770-552-5887 if you are interested.

Midtown/Buckhead: an **all-genre** group meets **Mondays, 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 **Mondays, 10:30 am- 12:30 pm** at the Sandy Springs Library. E-mail Pat Wells at pat.wells@comcast.net or call her at 678-731-9797 to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

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, or GPC faculty and students (any age) 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

- 2007 Membership Year runs from 1/1/07 through 12/31/07.
- Sponsor someone who joins the club & receive \$5 off your renewal.
- Former members who have not paid by March 1 will be removed from The E-Quill mailing list.

Member Information: (If renewing, provide your name only, unless your contact info has changed)

Name _____

Address _____ City & Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Sponsor (if any) _____

Tell us about yourself:

1. Please circle your primary interests fiction nonfiction poetry freelancing
2. Have you published? Yes No
3. How long you have been writing? less than 5 years 5 or more years
4. Would you like to join a local critique group? Yes No

Date: ____/____/____