Since I am still fairly new to this presidency post, I have stepped up my efforts to become more familiar with the Georgia literary scene. My discoveries have pleasantly surprised me, particularly in relation to The Atlanta Writers Club.

For many years, the AWC was not regarded as the premier writers club in our area. We had some terrific members who were dedicated professionals and successful authors. But the club labored in relative obscurity.

Even when I attended author signings or workshops, I was asked if I was a member of that “other” club. Did I know this person? They were a member of that “other” club; and so forth.

But the tone and content of questions has changed.

I will meet an author and they will tell me, “I’ve heard The Atlanta Writers Club is doing really well. I wanted to contact you to see if I can get on your speaker list.”

We are obtaining a reputation for assisting writers to become published authors, honing their craft with the aid of our membership. Former members are returning with enthusiasm. Current members inquire about how they can do more to assist the club.

Every social or literary organization cycles through the ups and downs of success. The Atlanta Writers Club started in 1914, so we certainly have experienced our share of those cycles. But there is also no doubt that we are making an impact in the Atlanta and Georgia literary community. Members are telling their friends, authors are discussing our club with fellow scribes.

(Continued on page 9)
Many of us got our first poetry lesson from the rhythmic rhymes of children’s books, and from making up our own next line in roses are red, violets are blue and some of us still do this, I know we do. As we age, we learn that poetic prose comes in many forms and colors.

Writer and English Literacy Instructor Dana Wildsmith will lead a workshop with the Atlanta Writers Club on July 21st entitled: Access to Tools: Using Poetry to Make Things Happen in Your Writing”. This will not be your mother's poetry workshop. In this three-hour session, participants will focus on the use of poetic devices as tools for making our poems, stories, essays and novels jump right off the page with immediacy and with visual vibrancy. Auden was right when he said that "poetry makes thing happen" - you just need the right tools to make those things happen. The workshop will include:

- How to make use of the facts of your life in your writing, and when to change those facts and why
- How to find strength through self-imposed limitations
- How to recognize what is at stake in your writing: for your characters, for your readers, and for you
- …and, of course, how to find the right words- and the right words only- to make your writing sing

Dana Wildsmith, well-known poet, has published four books of poetry - most recently, One Good Hand (Iris Press, 2005). Her work has been included in more than 50 publications, including the Asheville Poetry Review; Now & Then; and in a book from the University of KY Press. Dana teaches English literacy at Lanier Technical College in GA. Her workshops include a writing/teaching residency at the Island Institute in Sitka, Alaska, and the Appalachian Writers' Workshop at the Hindman Settlement School.

The Atlanta Writers Club welcomes Ms Wildsmith for a special AWC member workshop as our poet in residence for the day. With or without rhyme, yet with plenty of reason, she will bring forth her gift of creative insight and teach us to piece together in poetic form, the little things that dance around in our memories and as a poet give them just enough for their thoughts to wonder and their minds to linger.

Come prepared to think in new ways about poetry and its role in your writing life.

Registration info p.6

**JULY Guest Bio**

“The Craft of Poetry” An AWC Workshop Event  By Bonita Young, Program Chair & 1st VP

**Achievements & Accolades**

**Marion Blackwell**'s fiction article "Return to Chickamauga" appeared in the summer edition of Georgia Backroads. This was the magazine’s first venture into fiction. Blackwell is now listed as one of the magazine's Contributing Writers.

**Sara Martin** had two articles published recently.

400Edition printed her article about songstress Erin Peck, whose new CD "A Touch of Broadway" highlights songs she's sung in dinner theaters in North Georgia.

Georgia Backroads published Sara's article about the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw.
FIRST PLACE - $50.00

- $50.00 - 1st Place (Spiritual Category): Cheryl Mills
- $50.00 - 1st Place (Memoir Category): Walter Lawrence
- $50.00 - 1st Place (Flash Fiction): Linda Sands
- $50.00 - 1st Place (Magazine Article): Patricia E. Patterson

SECOND PLACE - $30.00

- $30.00 - 2nd Place (Spiritual Category): Jennifer Evans
- $30.00 - 2nd Place (Memoir Category): Leanne Benfield Martin
- $30.00 - 2nd Place (Flash Fiction): Ginger Collins
- $30.00 - 2nd Place (Magazine Article): LeAnne Benfield Martin

THIRD PLACE - $20.00

- $20.00 - 3rd Place (Spiritual Category): Walter Lawrence
- $20.00 - 3rd Place (Memoir Category): Franklin V. Cox
- $20.00 - 3rd Place (Flash Fiction): Patricia E. Patterson
- $20.00 - 3rd Place (Magazine Article): Cheryl Mills
Summer Meeting Schedule

July and August will see some changes to our monthly programs. Please note these changes so you may plan accordingly.

JULY - NOTE: There will not be a general program in July. However, Dana Wildsmith will be conducting a three-hour workshop from 1-4 PM on the date of normal meeting, July 21. Please see specific details on the poetry workshop in this newsletter.

AUGUST: On August 18, our program will be expanded beyond our normal 1:30 – 4:30 time with the special program of Deidre Knight. At 1:30, Ms. Knight and fellow agent Elaine Spencer will host the pitch-slam appointments that have already been scheduled. We will obtain more information for those appointments and release in the near future.

From 3:30 – 5:00 PM, Deidre Knight will present a workshop for our general membership and guests.

From 5:00 – 6:00 PM, she will provide information for supplying query letters and also be available for book signings.

We are pleased to have this special program, so please mark your calendars now.

Win a home library by naming new trade show

A new book show coming in August to the Georgia World Congress Center in downtown Atlanta, Ga., is holding a contest in cooperation with Publishers Weekly magazine to select a name. You could win a free home library or a trip for two to the show and $1,000 worth of books by suggesting the winning name.

ATLANTA, Ga. – Calling all booklovers and booksellers!

The nation's newest remainder, value and bargain book show, scheduled for Aug. 10-12 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Ga., is awaiting a name. Until that name is chosen in a contest that closes in early August, the show is being called simply "Name That Show."

If you can think of a suitable name, don't wait - enter the "Name That Show Sweepstakes" contest sponsored by Publishers Weekly magazine at http://www.namethatshow.net or http://www.publishersweekly.com/info/CA6448845.html.

The grand prize going to the winning entry is an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Atlanta, including roundtrip airfare to Georgia for two (from domestic U.S. points only), hotel accommodations at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center and a choice between a mixed skid of books or $1,000 in books (retail value) to build your own personal library.

Three runners-up will be awarded either a mixed skid of books or $500 in books (retail value) to build their own personal library.

The show will highlight books and book-related products for fourth quarter sales. Retailers seeking stock to sell over the late autumn, Christmas and other winter holidays, will find stock at incredible values – including new books at 80 to 90 percent off suggested retail price.

For further details, email caregle@namethatshow.net.
Members enjoyed the annual picnic with special guests Patti Callahan Henry and Haywood Smith.
In their own words

Michael A Buchanan

I am a first time author with the ability to write, but never thought that I would seek a literary career. I developed a passion for writing and plan to exercise that passion to the fullest. My manuscript “Baby Boomers to the Rescue” is my first completed project and am now seeking publication.

Fiction writing enables me to use my creativity with only my wits as a boundary. My characters dictate the direction of my story.

I was born Michael A Buchanan, Ancon Canal Zone, in the Republic of Panama. I graduated from the prestigious ‘Santa Maria La Antigua Catholic University’ in Panama, B.S in Business Administration and Accounting. I worked with the U.S. Southern Command for many years in different managerial positions. Throughout school, my passion was writing poems in Spanish. I am married with four children; two from my previous marriage and two with my present wife. We relocated to Atlanta in 1999.

Suzanne Lawless

I’ve enjoyed writing since high school days – we won’t say how long ago that was – and only in the last decade have I come to believe that I’m a writer. I fund my bill payments as a Legal Secretary for a large Midtown law firm, and even in that vocation I find opportunities for creative writing. I happily joined AWC in search of fellow storytellers and opportunities to pursue my love of crafting visions and feelings out of words. I look forward to making even more new friends who enjoy that as well. I’m on a fresh adventure and am having a grand time with it!

Melissa Roberts

My educational background includes a B.A. in English and a master’s degree in library and information studies. I am employed at Georgia Perimeter College as a catalog librarian. Last year, I moved to Atlanta from a small town in Louisiana and was excited to learn about all of the opportunities for writers in Georgia. Although I haven’t published anything to date, I have been writing fiction for several years, including two novels. I joined the Atlanta Writers’ Club because I was interested in meeting other writers, networking, and gaining tips about craft and publishing.

Interested in poetry? The Atlanta Writers Club has an important upcoming event and is now creating a Critique Group dedicated to this genre. We thank Jill Jennings, AWC member, who has volunteered to head this group. Please see details below and in our upcoming newsletter.

AWC Poetry Critique Group - to serve Woodstock, Canton, Marietta, Roswell, and Acworth area and headed by AWC member Jill Jennings. Planning meeting is scheduled immediately after Dana Wildsmith’s Poetry Workshop to be held July 21 at Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus (http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/events.html). At that time we will discuss times and locations for regular meetings. If you can’t come to the workshop but would like to discuss joining the critique group, please contact Jill at 770.516.2482 or magistra_jennings@yahoo.com.

Poetry Workshop - July 21 - 1:00 PM - Dana Wildsmith will direct our three-hour poetry workshop at Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus. The cost is $35 and can be paid on-line via PayPal at our link: http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/events.html or send a check to George Weinstein, 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075.

You may also contact George Weinstein at GJweinstein@yahoo.com or call him at 770-552-5857 with additional questions about the workshop. There are still some spots available in this workshop so we suggest you make your plans as soon as possible.

Sign up on next page.
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 following is Dana’s summary of the event:

This is not your mother’s poetry workshop. In this three-hour session we will focus on the use of poetic language and poetic devices as a tool for making our poems, stories, essays and novels jump right off the page with immediacy and with visual vibrancy. Auden was right when he said that “poetry makes things happen”—you just have to have the right tools for making things happen. The workshop will examine:

- how to make use of the facts of your life in your writings; when to change the facts and why
- how to find strength through self-imposed limitations
- how to recognize what is at stake in your writing for your characters, for your readers, and for you
- and, of course, how to find the right words, and only the right words, to make your writing sing

Come prepared to think in new ways about poetry and its role in your writing life.

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 may also contact George Weinstein at GJweinstein@yahoo.com or call him at 770-552-5857 with additional questions about the workshop. There are still some spots available in this workshop so we suggest you make your plans as soon as possible.

Register for the July 21 Poetry Workshop

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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 starting at 3:30 PM, 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.

August 18 Workshop & Pitch-Slam
by Fran Stewart

Leaving Her Behind

On the way to the library this morning, I heard a reporter interviewing David Rabe, a playwright and novelist, who has been highly acclaimed by some critics and scorned by others.

At any rate, someone read from his latest novel, and one phrase jumped out at me:

"... leaving her behind...

I might as well have turned off the radio at that point, because I didn’t hear another word of the interview. I saw a snarling dog leap at a fleeing shoplifter and rip out a satisfying pound of flesh. At which point the mangled woman ran offstage, (are you ready for this?) leaving her behind behind. Or some of it at least.

I know, I’m hopeless.

I am also patently sure that David Rabe never in his wildest dreams would have imagined that someone could be side-tracked by as simple a phrase as leaving her behind. It’s all a matter of whether a word is a preposition (which is what he intended) or a noun (which is what I heard).

How can we possibly write in such a way that our readers will know clearly, absolutely, exactly what we mean? Well, the truth of the matter is that we can’t. We simply do our best, and hope that the nut-case listening in the car on the way to the library won’t run off the road while she guffaws about leaving her behind... behind.

Pathetic, isn’t it?

Enjoy Fran Stewart’s column? This will soon be a part of our new blog. Look for more information in next month’s newsletter.

Decatur Book Festival: August 31 – September 2

The Atlanta Writers Club will again be an exhibitor at the upcoming Decatur Book Festival. We are in need of volunteers to staff our booth in two or three hour increments, depending on the schedule and number of volunteers. This festival has become one of the premier literary events in Georgia, with many literary attractions including those sponsored by the AWC. In addition, working the booth is a rewarding experience by itself. If you wish to volunteer to help us at this year’s event, please contact Clay Ramsey at chramse@emory.edu

Have a book you want to sell at our booth? Please register for a time-slot with Clay Ramsey as well. You may sell you book for an approved time, and then we request that you volunteer for an equal time in the following time-slot.

Please request the times as Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning, or Sunday afternoon. The specific schedule of the festival is not yet listed on their website, but we will certainly have those in the next few weeks. Clay Ramsey will contact you to assign specific times and obtain your confirmation then.
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:

- **July 10th** Travis Holland - The Archivist's Story
- **July 11th** Ferrol Sams - Down Town
- **July 17th** Bill Osinski - Ungodly
- **July 18th** Kristin Gore - Sammy's House

(Continued from page 1)

**The Advancement of the AWC**

and as a result, the AWC continues to improve.

Of course, much of this success is a product of our board that put so much time and effort into the organization over the past few years. But now we must all carry that torch and broadcast our vibrancy and talent.

The Atlanta Writers Club Blog will be available in the very near future, and more information will be distributed in the next newsletter and dedicated emails. This is just another small step to provide members with information to absorb and utilize to their advantage.

In July, we are hosting a poetry workshop with Dana Wildsmith and member Jill Jennings has volunteered to initiate a critique group dedicated to the poetry genre. Please see more about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

August brings our first ever pitch-slam to agent Deidre Knight and an opportunity for some members to experience some hectic minutes of selling themselves before someone that can really help. Even as I prepare myself for these few moments, I know I will come away with a valuable experience.

Labor Day weekend sees the AWC at the Decatur Book Festival with more exposure to the area literary scene, more education from the special programs they offer, and an opportunity to lift our heads with self-esteem. Our club is also sponsoring a panel of four speakers, led by 2006 AWC speaker Darnell Arnoult, who will speak on the value of critique groups.

It’s easy to speak with confidence when you are supported by 250+ enthusiastic members. So spread the word. This “other” club is rising to the top. See you on the blog soon.

Marty Aftewicz
No swap in July. 
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!

Is there a book you’re looking for? Let me know & I’ll post the request in the newsletter.

The Atlanta Writers Club Board

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

**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—_Carol O’Dell_—former AWC member returns with story of success

_Jackie Cooper & Susan Colegrove_—“accidental” authors on fate, luck & timing

**November 17, 2007**  
To be announced
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@townesquare.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 edbakeley@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 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 giweinstein@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 giweinstein@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.

New poetry critique group. Click here for info.
The Atlanta Writers Club has a huge new conference space in which to meet each month, a mile north of I-285 (northern arc) on the second floor of the Student Building on the Dunwoody campus of Georgia Perimeter College, 2101 Womack Road, Dunwoody, GA 30338.

Detailed directions also on our website: or on http://mapsonus.switchboard.com

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

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.
THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB

Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club:

Half-Year 2007 Membership Dues:
- $20 per member if receiving E-Quill newsletter by e-mail     $___________
- $30 if receiving E-Quill newsletter by regular mail

Donation in the amount of $___________

Total $___________

Please mail with checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club to
John Sheffield, 1070 Rome Drive, Roswell, GA 30075

• Half-Year 2007 Membership Year runs from 6/16/07 through 12/31/07.
Sponsor someone who joins the club & receive $5 off your renewal.

Member Information:  (Please complete this section in full to update our files.)

Name _______________________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________ City & Zip______________________

Home                                         Work/Cell
Phone________________________________ 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: _____/_____/_____