

The Quill

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 writing, publishing, and entertainment.

Resources:

- Meeting location p.16
- Officers p.14
- Critique groups p.15
- Membership form p.17
- Schedule for 2007 p.14

Passion for Words **by Marty Aftewicz, President**

Commercial vs. Literary

Now that I converse more regularly with individuals from various facets of the writing community, I have learned about a rather serious divide in our industry. There are authors that are deemed successful because of their commercial appeal, and those that are rewarded and respected for their literary talent.

I've heard extremely successful authors berated for having succumbed to the evil commercial publisher who is responsible for their recent book's rise on the best seller charts. And of course, I have listened to the criticism of those with an eloquent literary style who either remain unpublished or isolated with that small publisher and their mimeograph.

This thread made me think about my writing style and my stance on this issue. I recall my first attempt at writ-

ing was rather successful, even though I was self-published. I was in the third grade, if I remember correctly, and needed money to buy baseball cards, chewing gum included. I convinced a schoolmate to assist me with publication of a neighborhood newspaper. We didn't have any actual news, so we used our imagination. Aliens landed in our hometown, Elvis jammed with the Pope, the weather was always sunny (my friend did the weather), and I did the sports scores. The Indians always won.

Our publishing was enabled by my friend's mother, who volunteered to run our handwritten tabloid through her employer's mimeograph machine. A publishing empire was born, at least for that summer. Our

(Continued on page 11)

There are authors that are deemed successful because of their commercial appeal, and those that are rewarded and respected for their literary talent.

Inside this issue:

August Speaker	2
Interviews	
Accolades	2
Tip of My Pen	3
Decatur Book Show	3
Writers Conference	4
Upcoming Events	5
Georgia Literary Festival	6
Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference	6
NABS	7
Name That Show	8
Poetry Contest Winner	8
Tidal Writers Workshop	9
Women for Hire	9
In Own Words	10
Poetry Workshop Recap	10
Aug 18 Pitch Slam	11
Margaret Mitchell House	12

Next Meeting—August 18, 2007

*Pitch-slam to The Knight Agency
 3 PM Workshop – How to find an agent,
 how an agent locates a publisher,
 and the author's responsibility*

Click here for more details

Q&A with Deidre Knight and Elaine Spencer of The Knight Agency

by George Weinstein, 1st VP & Program Chair

On the afternoon of August 18, Deidre Knight and Elaine Spencer will treat us to a full-immersion experience in the world of literary agents, editors, and publishing.



Deidre Knight established The Knight Agency in 1996 after working in the entertainment industry. In the years since that time, she has built a dynamic, best-selling client list, placing nearly four hundred titles in a broad range of categories, including romance, women's fiction, personal finance, business, popular culture, African American history, self-help, religion, health, and parenting.

Elaine Spencer joined The Knight Agency in September of 2005 to manage their continual onslaught of queries and submissions. She acts as the liaison between clients, publishers, and agents as Manuscript Coordinator and an Associate Agent. With a strong background in both comparative literature and economics at the University of Georgia, she has experience with legal contracts and executive management, as well as writing, editing, and publishing.

Here are their views on some of the issues that might be on your mind:



What do you want the August 18 attendees to get from your workshop that follows the pitch appointments?

[Deidre Knight] In general, to come away with a better understanding of the publishing

process and also knowing more about our agency. I love question-and-answer because it gives me the chance to personally interact with writers in a way that I can't on a daily basis.

What do you want participants to get from their pitch experiences with you and Deidre?

[Elaine Spencer] Basically a pitch appointment is the first step in discovering whether the participants' personalities blend with my own; it's the first chance to see if we could expect to have positive agent-author relationship down the road (pending the outcome of the review of their writing). We aim to offer suggestions that can guide them towards a practical publishing outlet for their manuscripts.

What is the current publishing environment for first-time authors and how do you overcome this challenge?

Aug 18
Q&A
with
Deidra
&
Elaine

(Continued on page 13)

Achievements & Accolades

George Weinstein's essay "23 1/2 Love Letters," about how he wooed his future wife and simultaneously became a writer, has been published in *A Cup of Comfort for Writers: Inspirational Stories that Celebrate the Literary Life* (ISBN: 1-59869-268-2), available for order on August 20.

Send your achievements & accolades to: geneb45183@aol.com

From the Tip of My Pen

by Fran Stewart

Precision Postcards

Browsing through treasures at Coffee Buy the Book in Roswell, I came across Robert Olen Butler's had a good time: stories from American postcards. I've always been a sucker for a well-written postcard. Butler, according to the book jacket, collects early twentieth century picture postcards, and had a good time is a collection of short stories, each based on one of the cards. We even get photos of the cards—front and back.

There is an art to writing a postcard, one that we writers would do well to hone. My newest project—don't I need another one?—is to write postcard-length stories, as a number of writers have done before me. Reports from them suggest that



this is harder to do than one might think. How does one get a beginning, a middle, and a satisfying end, into a square that measures three inches on a side?

Write small.

Be concise.

Have fun.

Postcard #1

Tomorrow, I think. The second time the waiter spilled soup in Archibald's lap, I began to think he—Archibald, not the waiter—must have already been suspicious, since I was so careful not to betray anything in my

countenance—nothing, that is, except concern for his dear sweet self. And the bouillabaisse stains on his pinstripes. A minuscule drop splashed on the hem of my yellow silk, but I didn't mention that to the waiter, who was positively abject with apologies. I plan to wear the yellow to his funeral—Archibald's, not the waiter's—before I leave for Paris. See you soon, my dearest.

Postcard #2

Well, mum, she tried it again. You were right, as usual. So sorry I ignored your advice. Not that I'm particularly worried about the outcome. So transparent. Why didn't I see it as clearly as you did? Had to trip the blundering fool twice. If she could pay him, I can pay him more. Tonight, I think. Then I'll be home for a good long rest. After the funeral.

There is an art to writing a postcard, one that we writers would do well to hone.



August 31 - September 2

The AJC Decatur Book Festival is now only a few weeks away. You will find The Atlanta Writers Club booth near the Old Courthouse, along East Ponce de Leon Ave. We'll be in the same row as the AJC

(ironic, given our Read In protest on their doorstep in May!).

On Saturday, September 1, the festival hours are 10 am to 6 pm. On Sunday, September 2, the festival runs from 12 to 6 pm. Our booth will be in operation the whole time,

with volunteers handing out literature about the AWC and directing attendees to book signings by our members. Please e-mail Clay Ramsey (chramse@emory.edu) to volunteer. E-mail Clay too if you wish to hold a book signing—this requires an additional two hours of volunteer time in our booth.

On Sunday the 2nd from 5:00 to 5:45 pm, be

(Continued on page 12)

"rapidly becoming the premier literary event in Georgia"

THE WRITERS CONFERENCE



Some of the Writers Conference events require and RSVP so please review and plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Writers Conference, consisting of several talks, panel discussions, and book signings, will take place Saturday, September 1. In addition, a brunch with Sonny Brewer will be held at Wahoo-A Decatur Grill on Sunday, September 2, at 10:30 a.m.

The Writers Conference will begin Saturday morning at 8:30 with a welcome and meet-and-greet and will continue until 6 p.m. The conference will carry on at 8 p.m. at Twain's in Decatur with a free-for-all debut of the Alt-Rock Bottom Reminders, a band made up of authors and editors from independent presses.

The conference will feature authors, editors, and publicists such as Hollis Gillespie, Patricia Smith, Mark Smirnoff, John Warner, David L. Robbins, and Robert Venditti.

Writers Conference workshops that require an RSVP are:

Saturday, September 1

- "How to Break Into Hollywood

Screenwriting" with Jeffrey Stepakoff. 11:00 a.m. - noon.

- "Poetry and Performance" with Patricia Smith, Chelsea Rathburn, and Kodac Harrison. 11:00 a.m. - noon.
- "How to Get Started in Comics" with Robert Venditti. 1:00 - 2:50 p.m.
- "How to Lie Effectively" with David L. Robbins. 3:00 - 4:50 p.m.
- "Humor Writing" with John Warner. 3:00-4:50 p.m.
- "Shocking Real-Life Writing" with Hollis Gillespie. 3:00-4:50 p.m.
- "Happy Ending" with Amanda Stern. 3:00-4:50 p.m.

Sunday, September 2

- Sunday Brunch with Sonny Brewer, at Wahoo - A Decatur Grill. 10:30 a.m.- noon.

NOTE: Student workshops that require an RSVP are:

Saturday, September 1

- Poetry Workshop, with Travis Denton and Katie Chaple. 10:00 a.m. - noon.
- Magic Journalism, with Chuck Rosenthal. 10:00 a.m. - noon.
- "Writing for Digital Media" with Jeffrey Stepakoff. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- "Conflict Resolution" with George Singleton. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

To R.S.V.P., contact Jamie Allen at Jamie@decaturookfestival.com.

Decatur Book Festival 2007

Presented by

DeKalb Medical



8.31.07-9.02.07

Decatur, Georgia



Upcoming Events – North, South, & Atlanta

We wish to notify our readers of three key literary events happening in our state of Georgia over the next few months. Two events will occur on the same weekend at the end of September. This certainly demonstrates the support and interest level of the Georgia literary community.

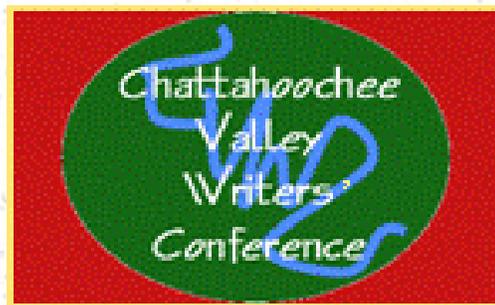


The Atlanta Writers Club is proud to be a part of providing information regarding these events.

1. In Blue Ridge, the Georgia Center for the Book will host the Georgia Literary Festival, September 29-30. The Atlanta Writers Club will participate as a sponsor at this event. If you are interested in assisting the AWC at our booth for this event, please contact Clay Ramsey.



2. In Columbus on that same weekend, the Inaugural Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference will feature Shay Youngblood as the Keynote Speaker.



3. About six weeks later, Atlanta will be the scene for the National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference, November 14-18.



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September 28-30

The Georgia Literary Festival is a "moveable feast" that celebrates the rich literary heritage of the state in a different location each year. We are

pleased to announce that the eighth annual Georgia Literary Festival will be hosted in 2007 by the town of Blue Ridge in Fannin County in the beautiful North Georgia mountains. The festival observance will be Friday September 28 - Sunday September 30.

The honored writer at this year's festival will be the late Appalachian poet and novelist Byron Herbert Reece, whose 90th birthday falls in the month of the literary festival. More information on Reece, his life and his work is available from the Byron Herbert Reece Society

Among the featured Georgia authors with speaking roles at the 2007 event are Bettie Sellers, former Poet Lau-

reate of Georgia and author of nearly a dozen books of poetry and essays; Philip Lee Williams, prize-winning author of *A Distant Flame*, *Blue Crystal* and *The Heart of a Distant Forest*; Amy Blackmarr, award-winning author of *Going to Ground*, *Above the Fall Line* and *Dahloga Haunts*; Joe Dabney, author of *Smokehouse Ham*, *Spoon Bread* and *Scuppernong Wine: The Folklore and Art of Southern Appalachian Cooking*; Dr. Helen Lewis, Appalachian scholar and activist and author of a number of books; poet Dana Wildsmith; and Ethelene Jones, a poet, editor, newspaper columnist and author of *Facets of Fanin: A History of Fanin County, Ga.* Programming details will be announced soon.

The Festival is sponsored by the Georgia Center for the Book with funding assistance and support provided by the Georgia Humanities Council.

For more detailed information, please visit:
www.georgialiteraryfestival.org.

Eighth annual Georgia Literary Festival

Sept 28-30

in

Blue Ridge



Inaugural Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference Announced - Shay Youngblood to be Keynote Speaker The Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Muscogee County Friends of Libraries announces the inaugural Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference that will be held Saturday, September 29, 2007, at the Columbus Public Library, 3000 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia.

Following Shay Youngblood's keynote presentation, one dozen workshops will be presented by nationally-recognized authorities including the Poets Laureate of Alabama and Tennessee, Sue Brannon Walker & Maggi Vaughn. The registration fee for the conference, which includes lunch, is \$45.

Prior to the conference, at 7 pm Thursday evening, September 27, the Georgia Poetry Society will sponsor a free public poetry reading by the two Poets Laureate in the library auditorium.

Chattahoochee Valley Writers' Conference

Sept 29 \$45

(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 6)

The opening plenary session will cover the accomplishments of Honorary Chairman F. Clason Kyle and Chattahoochee Valley Authors Nunnally Johnson and Carson McCullers will be recognized prior to Ms. Youngblood's keynote address "You Got to Move Your Feet When You Pray." Workshops following the plenary session will include:

- Sue Brannan Walker, Poet Laureate of Alabama: "Lives Like Lines or Life Lines of the Serial Killer Poem (not Poetry) (Writing the Poem to die for)";
- Michael Bishop: "Interstitial Dreams: Fantasy, Magic, Realism, Science Fiction and Other Fruitfully Mutating Categories";
- Peter Bowerman: "The Well-Fed Self-Publisher: How to Turn One Book into a Full-Time Living"; and,
- Dusty Nix and Allison Kennedy: "Writing for the Newspaper".
- Maggi Vaughn, Poet Laureate of Tennessee: "Image, Image, Image: What I Learned from Country Music That Made Me a Peoples' Poet";
- Niles Reddick: "Creative Nonfiction: Wrestling with an Oxymoron";
- Brian Jay Corrigan: "Crafting Character Through Dialog and Description";
- Neil Wilkinson: "Copyrights, Licensing, & Other Intellectual Property Issues With Which Writers Must Wrestle."
- Esther Luttrell: "Screenwriting – Selling Scripts to Today's Hollywood";
- Michael Smith: "Short Stories for the Age of Electronic Entertainment";
- Patricia Sprinkle: "The Town That Isn't There: Creating Believable Protagonists and Settings Good for Story After Story"; and,
- David Muschell: "No Compromise: Heightening Conflict in Your Writing".

For additional information, or to register, please contact

John Frandsen, CVWC Coordinator at 334-821-2036 (or email chattwriter@charter.net) or

Linda Ames at 706-323-4014 or visit <http://www.chattwriters.org>.

(Note: email is singular; website is plural.)



*25TH Anniversary
"In the Tradition..."
National Black
Storytelling Festival
and Conference*

25TH Anniversary
"In the Tradition..."

National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference. "Our Roots, Our Story, Our Dreams, Our Glory!"

The Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia November 14-18, 2007

Sponsored by National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. Hosted by Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia
Festival Director Vanora Legaux
Festival Co-Director Akbar Imhotep
NABS Office – 410-947-1117
NABS Website – NABSinc.org



“Name that Book Show” announces seminar for writers, authors and publishers

An exciting new bargain book show will make its debut at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta on Aug. 10-12. As part of educational component of the show, a “Making Money with Books” seminar will be held for writers, authors and book publishers on Aug. 10-11.

ATLANTA, Ga. - When the South’s newest book show, “Name that Show,” opens in Atlanta’s cavernous Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) on Aug. 10, one of the educational components for attendees will be a two-day seminar for writers, authors and people interested in book publishing.

A dozen experts on various aspects of writing, publishing and marketing books will be on hand to teach the two-day seminar, entitled “Making Money with Books – By Writing, Publishing and Selling Them.” The seminar will be held at the GWCC from 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Fri.-Sat., Aug. 10-11.

Among the presenters will be graphic novels market consultant John Shableski of

San Diego, Calif., on “The Emerging Graphic Novels Publishing Industry and Its Impact on Libraries and Retail Stores”... John Patrick Grace, former Associated Press Vatican correspondent in Rome, “Selecting the Right Editor for your manuscript”... Jim Salisbury, publisher, Tabby House, and co-author of *Smart-Self Publishing: An Author's Guide to Producing a Marketable book* (3rd edition), “Professionalism – The Key To Success”... R.W.

“Bill” Crossley, president of eChapterOne, “Sell Your Book in the Exploding eBook Market!”... Josh Batchelder, author of two books on handwriting analysis, “A Checklist for Selling Books at Friends of the Library Presentations”... Linda Salisbury, author of the Bailey Fish Adventure Series for middle-grade readers, “The Harry Potter Effect—Selling a Series”... Elsa McKeithan, author of *Writing the Stories of Your Life: How To Turn Memories into Memoir*, on “Selling the Story of Your Life”... and Noel Griese, author of 17 books and editor of the *Southern Review of Books* newsletter, “25 Ways To Sell Your Books on the Internet.”

A full list of faculty members and their credentials is at http://www.anvilpub.net/author-publisher_seminar_20071.htm.

(Continued on page 13)

“Making Money with Books – By Writing, Publishing and Selling Them.”

Two-day seminar

Foreign Language Poetry Contest Winner

The Georgia Poetry Society, which met on July 28, announced the winner of their first ever Foreign Language Poetry Contest. Jill Jennings, a former Latin teacher, won for her poem in French entitled *Le train-train* (A Humdrum Existence).

Written in iambic octameter, the poem, composed with French slang, cap-

tures the lifestyle of Parisians whose existence revolves around a daily train commute, a job, and escape on the weekends to the South of France.

The contest was coordinated by Dr. Robert Simon of KSU's Foreign Language Department. The prize was an edition of the newly released GPS anthology, *The Reach of Song*.

Jill Jennings wins poetry contest

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The message below is sent at the request of Jennifer Taylor, an AWC member who is leading a series of workshops this fall. Please contact Jennifer Taylor directly with any questions at jrtaylor1@mac.com or visit the website listed below for the Tidal Writers Workshops.

Jennifer Taylor, AWC member, has partnered with mediabistro.com to provide workshop participants with discounts on Avant Guild memberships. Tidal Writers Workshop is designed for women of all ages with either previous or little writing experience. The workshop leaders are published writers Jennifer Taylor, MFA, and Lesley Dame, MFA. They will lead writers through a day and a half of Poetry and Nonfiction workshops held in scenic Saint Simons Island, Georgia, an hour from Jacksonville, Florida and a five-hour drive from Atlanta.

The October senses workshop will be held October 6th and 7th. We spend every day housed in our bodies yet we ignore our senses and all of the writing possibilities that can come from them. This workshop will

- The October senses workshop will be held October 6th and 7th. We spend every day housed in our bodies yet we ignore our senses and all of the writing possibilities that can come from them. This workshop will

focus on highlighting each of the senses and include a trip to the salt marsh.

- The November mother-daughter workshop will be held November 3rd and 4th. There aren't many creative possibilities for mothers and daughters to enjoy together, but this is certainly an exception. This workshop will focus on themes of gratitude for the women in our lives, which will extend beyond this time of year. This workshop will include a walk on the beach.
- The December seasons transitional workshop will be held December 1st and 2nd. As the year draws to a close, we are often immersed in seasonal activities, and tend to neglect our writing and the possibilities for creativity and growth this time of year aside from baking and shopping. Take the time to welcome this transition before festivities begin, and rejuvenate your inner being. This workshop will include a nature hike.

For more information, please visit their website at:

<http://www.tidalwritersworkshop.com>

A day and a half of Poetry and Nonfiction workshops held in scenic Saint Simons Island.

Oct-Nov-Dec

women for hire

Robyn Spizman, long-time AWC member, successful author and past speaker at our meetings asked us to provide information regarding this opportunity.

Women For Hire, the country's leading provider of career advancement services for professional women nationwide, is pleased to announce the launch of the Women For Hire Speakers Connection™, a special members-only program promoting qualified experts for speaking opportunities, increased visibility, and national exposure. Are you an author, coach, trainer, consultant, advi-

sor, motivator, corporate speaker or other type of expert with a valuable message to share? Women For Hire Speakers Connection™ is not a traditional speakers bureau; rather they are a well-connected resource to support you in reaching new audiences and bridge the gap between your business and the gatekeepers in the corporate event and conference planning community.

Check out this opportunity for a special introductory rate at http://womenforhire.com/about_us/women_for_hire_speakers_connection

career advancement services for professional women

In their own words

JIA GAYLES

I graduated from Agnes Scott College with a major in English-Literature/Creative Writing and attended the Columbia Publishing Course in New York City. I have published articles in *Upscale Magazine*, "I Do" for Brides and on *Africana.com*. Currently, I am a marketing coordinator at a design firm who "moonlights" as a professional daydreamer (a.k.a. writer). Writing projects include adapting a screenplay into a Young Adult novel for Positive Reinforcement on Kids and Youth Communications Group and grant writing for a local art school. I was immediately drawn to AWC because I felt I had met like-minded people who are motivated by a love of the written word.

ALAN M. WELLS

I am interested in writing fiction; no specific genre exclusively as yet. When I have others read and evaluate my work I become more motivated and very productive; I also enjoy reading and assessing the works of others. I have lots of ideas for stories and I'm exploring ways to get to them all. I started writing book reviews now and then and posting them on *amazon.com*; and from these postings, I have had two authors contact me about reviewing their works of fiction. One author, on separate occasions, sent me review copies for two of her novels; I wrote critiques and reviews for each. Most recently, an author sent me a manuscript of his novel that I read and wrote an extensive critique on; he incorporated some of my recommended changes before submitting it for publication.

B. LYNNE

Zika's credits include: *Amelia, The Anthology of American Poets, Beyond Survival, Desert, Exquisite Corpse, 51%, Insomnia, lingo, Midway Review, onTarget, ONTHEBUS, Pearl, Playgirl, Poetry East, Poetry Motel, The Poetry Revival Anthology, Rag Mag, Raising the Roof: Habitat for Humanity Poetry Anthology, The Rustler, Sheilana-Gig, Spillway, Telephone, Valley Contemporary Poets Anthology, Voices*, and *xib*. She is co-author of *Night Games: Call and Response Poetry* (Bombshelter Press), a recipient of the Pacificus Foundation Literary Award in short fiction, and has served as editor of *Spillway, Blood Pudding*, and *Transactions* magazine.

*Jia Gayles
Alan Wells
B. Lynne*

POETRY - Successful Workshop + New Critique Group

Thank you for all participants of the recent Poetry Workshop, with special appreciation to Dana Wildsmith for conducting an excellent workshop. We learned that at least 10% of AWC members have a serious interest in poetry, and that was a most welcome discovery.

After the workshop, interested attendees

met and created a Poetry Workshop under the leadership of Jill Jennings. The group also received valuable insight from Dana Wildsmith on particular methods and approaches within a poetry critique group.

The group will hold their first session on Saturday, August 4 in Roswell at a home of one of our

members. Future location will be discussed at that time.

Contact Jill Jennings at magistra_jennings@yahoo.com or call Jill at 770-516-2482 to get on the distribution list for the meeting and learn more details.

...at least 10% of
AWC members have
a serious interest in
poetry

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 starting at 1:00 PM. 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 3:00 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.

*Workshop with
Deidre Knight*

(Continued from page 1)

earnings peaked at twenty-five cents per day as our circulation exploded.

I immediately recognized that commercial writing was the only way to go, but my career was sidetracked when my friend and his family moved to the west coast.

A few years later, I took up poetry and song writing. All those hormones and emotions spewed irresistible combinations of words of prose. I was convinced that the literary approach was the most rewarding. That silly boy in the third grade knew nothing.

College and then corporate life consumed me along with the pressing need to enhance my earnings. Sure, I enjoyed my poetry and some of my songs were well received, but we needed to buy a home and a car and go on vacation and health insurance and what was I thinking? My literary efforts were never going to bring in the money for

the lifestyle I wanted. That young man with raging testosterone didn't understand the demands of a modern economy.

So I quit; writing that is. I proceeded through many years of my life with nary a literary effort. Then I would pen a poem for my wife's birthday, or compose a song for a special event. My wife told me one day that I always appeared the happiest when I was writing that occasional poem or song.

An intelligent man always follows the advice of his beloved, so I began to write again. And now I write for peace of mind, for spiritual healing, or to view the expression on someone's face after they have read my words.

Literary or commercial? I don't care as long as I can write, although I do sort of miss the aroma of the mimeograph paper.

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RESTORED BY DAIMLER-BENZ

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:

6:00 Reception,
7:00 Author's Lecture

- August 9th Linda Greenlaw - Slipknot
 August 14th Sophie Gee - The Scandal of the Season
 August 15th - October 3rd Adult Creative Writing Class -So You Want to Write a Children's Book!
 August 22nd Karin Slaughter - Beyond Reach
 August 23rd Midtown Mixer
 Through September 10th Adult Creative Writing Class - Fiction Shop
 September 19th Laurel Thatcher Ulrich - Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History
 September 20th Terry Kay - The Book of Marie
 September 25th Robert Fulghum - What on Earth Have I Done?
 September 26th Tess Gerritsen - The Bone Garden

*Linda Greenlaw
 Sophie Gee
 Karin Slaughter
 Laurel Ulrich
 Terry Kay
 Robert Fulghum
 Tess Gerritsen*

(Continued from page 3) DBF

sure to attend the speaker panel sponsored by the club. Darnell Arnoult (May 2006 AWC speaker), Pam Duncan, Virginia Boyd, and Lynn York will be speaking at the Old Courthouse about the power of critique groups. These career women have maintained such a writers group for years, sharing scenes and chapters and critiquing manuscripts. Now, each of them has at least one book published, which they attribute to the encouragement—and fearless criticisms—of their fellow members.

They will discuss how critique groups can help everyone achieve such success. Four writers, four novels, one year, one writers group! Come lend your support and learn some strategies and tips for your own AWC critique group, or get

inspired to join a group, as Darnell & Co. deliver their message of one for all and all for one.

To view a complete line up of speakers and events at the 2007 Decatur Book Festival, including a writers conference on Saturday the 1st and a brunch with Sonny Brewer on Sunday, September 2nd, please click this link:

<http://www.decaturookfestival.com/2007/index.html>.

See you there on Labor Day weekend!

For information on The Writers Conference click here (p.4).

e Quill

(Continued from page 2) Deidre & Elaine

[Elaine Spencer] In all honesty, it's a hard world to get a start in. However, as difficult as it may be, it is by no means impossible. Nearly half of our sales in this day and age are for debut authors. The best ways to overcome the difficulties are to realize that publishing is a business. Treat all of your writing interests in a professional matter, do your research, learn your market, learn your competition, determine the best ways to market yourself and your material.

How have your first-time author-clients set themselves apart, to get noticed by an editor and ultimately published?

[Deidre Knight] I would say it all comes down to the book. I love to discover an amazing new voice, a wonderful new story, and in the end, it really comes down to finding a fabulous book that I can't put down. I want that "falling in love" experience of having found a new favorite writer.

What's your favorite story about getting one of your first-time authors published?

[Elaine Spencer] There are books that our agency has shopped for over 5 years. Things that we have

put away thinking, this is just not going to be sellable. We had a true crime book like this several years ago. It had been extensively shopped and no one was interested. A year or so later an editor came to us telling us that at that time they were really looking for this particular type of story—we had an offer 2 weeks later.

How have your experiences as an author changed/confirmed your approach to agenting?

[Deidre Knight] I put a lot more emphasis on publicity and promotion now than I did in the past. I encourage my authors to avail themselves of the vast Net marketing opportunities like Myspace and blogging and such. We have created a massive reviewer database that we didn't have before, and aggressively send clients' galley to these individuals. In fact, we have our own dedicated marketing manager on staff who works diligently on showcasing our authors. We weren't doing any of this before I became an author. So I think my writing career has equipped me to be a much stronger agent.

(Continued from page 8) Name That Show

Seminar attendees will be given a guided tour of the "Name that Show" Book Show as part of their educational experience. They also get free entry to the show during its three-day run.

The seminar for authors and publishers, a second seminar on the graphic novels market for bookstore owners and librarians and a third seminar on profitably operating bookstores will make up the educational component for the first run of "Name that Show." A name for the show, selected from entries submitted from around the world, will be announced during the event.

The show is being organized by L. B. May & Associates, which owns Bargain

Book News, Bargain Book Bids and the Spring Book Show held annually in Atlanta in March. L.B. May is also the exclusive U.S. distributor for Wordsworth Classics.

Larry and Valerie May recently purchased the Onboard Remainder Book Show, formerly held in Nashville, and are moving it to Atlanta.

Additional information: call Valerie May at 865-922-7490 or email her at valmay@namethatshow.net.

Book Swappin' with AWC Social Director, Janean Brown

Book swap in next meeting.

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.

Book swap back, August 18th..

The Atlanta Writers Club Board

President	Marty Aftewicz	eQuill Editor	Gene Bowen
First VP	George Weinstein		
Membership VP	Kate Copsey	Other Volunteers	
Treasurer	John Sheffield	Historian/By-Laws	Adrian Drost
Publicity VP	Jim Stevens	Photographer	Gene Bowen
Operations VP	Clay Ramsey	PR/Open Mic	Patricia Patterson
Contests VP	Tara Coyt	E-Quill Copy Editor	Gene Bowen
Marketing VP	Bill Black	Achievements	Gene Bowen
Social Director	Janean Brown		

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

- September 15, 2007 --
 - 1:45-2:30 novelist, essayist, and educator Sheri Joseph on writing craft
 - 3:00-3:45 the Atlanta Magazine panel on freelance writing for commercial magazines
- October 20, 2007 --
 - 1:45-2:30 AWC alumnus Carol O'Dell on finding publishing success
 - 3:00-3:45 memoirist Jackie K. Cooper and novelist Susan Colegrove discuss becoming "accidental authors"
- November 17, 2007 --
 - 1:45-2:30 Diane Coulter Thomas, novelist, on using business writing to build authorial skills
 - 3:00-3:45 professional editor and screenplay doctor Ann Kempner Fisher on effective manuscript editing
- December 15, 2007 --
 - 1:45-2:45 Best-selling novelist Cassandra King will speak about her success using first person narration and how her strong characters capture the interests of her readers.
 - 3:00-3:45 non-fiction author Annabelle Robertson on creating your platform.

*Sheri Joseph
Carol O'Dell
Jackie Cooper
Susan Colegrove
Diane Thomas
Ann Fisher
Cassandra King
Annabelle Robertson*

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.

Poetry: Meets on the first Saturday of the month, 1-3 PM at Nirvana Cafe in

Roswell. Contact Jill Jennings at magistra_jennings@yahoo.com or call Jill at 770-516-2482 to get on the distribution list for the meeting and learn more details.

Directions to Our Monthly Meeting Location

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 meet-

ings 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 person \$ _____

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 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: ____/____/____