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:**
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- Officers & Board p.16
- Critique groups p.17
- Membership form p.23
- Schedule for 2007 p.16

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**Passion for Words**

*by Marty Aftewicz, President*

**Rules of Membership**

Members are required to volunteer at least twenty hours per week.

Some of us dream of the three R’s – romance, riches and racing. Others imagine a new techno-gadget that solves our most critical life issue of the moment. For most of us in the Atlanta area, that would likely be a discovery that pressuring a certain combination of keys on a cell phone will create a gentle but bountiful three-day rain.

For me, it’s the declaration that started this column. Now before you start a recall petition to remove me from the office of the presidency, allow me to explain myself.

The Atlanta Writers Club is comprised of over three hundred members who work together to help advance their literary abilities and careers. That is my standard reply when someone inquires of the nature of our group.

So now that I have composed this rather slick reply to this broad question, I believe I have scared would-be members away with that “work” reference. I’ve even had several stuttering responses such as, “How much time is required of each member?”

Of course, then my evil side tries to assume control of the conversation but has not completed the mutiny over rational... 

*(Continued on page 11)*

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**Next Meeting—Nov 17, 2007**

- 12:45 – 1:15 PM Networking: Make new friends and contacts.
- 1:15 – 1:30PM Share your Writing: Read a short work of two minutes or less
- 1:30 – 1:45 PM Club Business: Fall Contest, Preview of Upcoming Events
- 1:45 – 2:30 PM Diane Coulter Thomas on using business writing to build authorial skills.
- 2:30 – 3:00 PM Networking and Book Signing
- 3:00 – 3:45 PM Professional editor and screenplay doctor Ann Kempner Fisher on effective manuscript editing.
Diane Coulter Thomas (www.dianecoultherthomas.com), our 1:45 pm speaker on November 17, worked as a reporter and then entertainment editor for The Atlanta Constitution, a feature writer for Atlanta magazine, and a freelance writer and editor. Her first published novel, THE YEAR THE MUSIC CHANGED, received rave reviews and was a BookSense “Notable Book” for September 2005. An earlier manuscript of her current novel-in-progress was nominated for the Pushcart Editors’ Award.

THE YEAR THE MUSIC CHANGED features a shy, facially disfigured fourteen-year-old girl, Achsa McEachern, who is too intelligent for her own good and yearns for the Bohemian life of a poet in New York. When she sends a deceptively self-assured fan letter to a young country singer named Elvis Presley, he answers, beseeching her to teach him how to “talk good” so his grammar won’t hold him back. The result is a year’s worth of letters that rock both their lives.

Diane Coulter Thomas struggles to explain why she placed a cultural icon like Elvis in her novel, saying, “Knowing then what I know now, I’m not sure I would have done it. I wondered how to tell [Achsa’s] story, a teenager in the mid 1950s. I decided she was going to write unanswered letters to Elvis. Maybe I should’ve left it there, but this is what happens when characters take over. I wrote her first letter, got up and went into another room. Then this male, Southern voice leaped into my brain and I grabbed a legal pad and wrote down everything the voice said. It was Elvis’ response to the letter. At first I didn’t want to do this, but he gave her something to act against; it brought her and the time period into sharp focus, so I let him stay.”

She adds, “My agent loved the book, but couldn’t sell it to New York publishers. No one knew what to do with a literary novel that included Elvis. Finally he let me try an international small press and the editor fell in love with it. It sold respectably for a literary novel and it got wonderful reviews, but booksellers didn’t ‘get’ it—they didn’t know how to do with it either.”

Diane also received some surprises about the life of a novelist. “I worked with and was friends with Annie Siddons and Terry Kay, and at parties I’d hang on their every word, but they never talked about writing. They only talked about agents and publishers—business, in other words. Just like any other business people who get together.” After her years in journalism and spending her time covering public events and working in a newsroom, she says, “Writing [novels] is like joining a convent, taking the veil. It’s very solitary.”

On November 17th, she’ll talk to us about her novel, the critique group she and her husband formed years ago where Joshilyn Jackson and other talented authors honed their craft, and “what a source of discovery it was for me, using all of the skills that I’d picked up over the years writing all kinds of things I’d dismissed as unimportant. For instance, writing

(Continued on page 13)
The Legacy of Teachers

A year ago, in October of 1996, I started my keynote address to the Georgia Council of Teachers of English by singing “Heaven, I’m in heaven . . .” I’ve never been intimidated about speaking to large groups, even though for most people, fear of public speaking is even greater than their fear of dying. And those 350 teachers? I loved it. My speech at the GCTE’s annual convention was a recounting of the three English teachers who changed my life. Without those three blessed people, I would not be the person I am, the writer I am, today. They led me into a wonder world of books, and they insisted that I take responsibility for my actions; they encouraged me, and they made me hone my writing skills, because they would not accept anything less than my best effort.

Last month, on a book tour in Colorado, I was invited to speak to a much smaller, but equally important, group of teachers – the middle school and high school teachers in the small town of Florence. Listening to their comments afterwards, about how much they appreciated hearing someone acknowledge the gift that teachers give on a daily basis, made me very glad that I’d taken the time years ago to write thank-you notes to the teachers who had influenced me. The thank-you notes I received in return made it worth while. Now that I’m old enough that most of my teachers have left this earth, I’m doubly glad I took the time.

I’d like to encourage you to sit down right now and pen a note to a teacher who made a positive difference in your life. You see, if it weren’t for that teacher, you might never have discovered the breadth and depth of richness experience that a world of reading could bring to you. If it weren’t for that teacher, you might not be a writer today.

Do it now, before it’s too late.

Volunteer Judges

The North Fulton County PTA needs writers to help judge children’s literature for the National PTA “Reflections” artistic competition. Please visit the website www.nfcpta.com and on “Important Dates to Remember”, click the link for “Reflections”. Six to eight judges are needed to critique the essays of children 52 schools in the North Fulton County District. Interested? Please contact Pat Wells at pat.wells@comcast.net or call Pat at 678-731-9797.
Events Recap

George & Marty with host Sarah Crutchfield of Cabin Path—site of David Fulmer workshop.

Esther Levine & Carol O’Dell.

Dana Wildsmith visits our Blue Ridge booth.
Summary of Recent AWC Events by George Weinstein

Dinner with Author Sonny Brewer
On Friday, September 28, ten members of the club dined with author Sonny Brewer and his guest Pia Ehrhardt at Dailey’s Restaurant in downtown Atlanta and learned about his new book CORMAC as well as his approach to writing and marketing fiction. He spoke frankly about the need to secure not just any agent but one with plenty of contacts among all of the New York publishers. Sonny recommended submitting works to anthologies and small publications to build a writing resume and attract the attention of agents and editors. He also praised the club and our efforts to provide educational and entertaining experiences for our members. We made a good friend and contact in Sonny Brewer.

Oct. 13 Workshop with David Fulmer
The all-day workshop presented by acclaimed mystery writer David Fulmer at the Cabin Path in south Atlanta produced rave reviews from its participants. Linda Ames later wrote about the experience: “The day was jam-packed with useful information re setting, dialogue, plot, language, editing/revising, securing an agent, and getting published. The presentation is practical for all levels of writers.”

From John Sheffield: “I found his comments on my 10 pages very useful.”

Ralph Ellis wrote afterward, “I learned a lot about the business of fiction (manuscript preparation, divorcing an agent, etc.) as well as the theory of storytelling (the three-act rule, dangers of writing in the first person).”

Mary Willis commented: “David’s instruction is filled with more than concrete and essential writing guidelines. He shares many of his personal writing techniques, which spur the imagination and help organize stories for maximum clarity and impact: Most of all, he addresses his audience as colleagues—as if you’re destined to reach the same level of success that he has enjoyed.”

Tara Coyt added, “The Cabin Path location and setting was fantastic and fostered a relaxed environment. David’s casual and humorous presentation style made it easy to relate to him and the information.”

Jill Jennings stated, “I think it was superior,” and Buzz Bernard concluded his comments with, “Do yourself a favor. Take advantage of offers like David’s. Before you attack the ramparts of the publishing world, spend a day learning from someone who’s scaled walls.”

Our next workshop with David Fulmer is November 3, but is sold out. We will schedule more workshops with Mr. Fulmer at a future date.
Announcing the AWC Lending Library:

The AWC has a large membership with many published authors. Through those authors’ generosity, we are establishing the new AWC Lending Library. AWC members will now be able to read donated works free of charge. Before each AWC monthly meeting, Lynda Fitzgerald and Delores Gardner will staff a table on which will be displayed the novels available to our “readers.” These books can be checked out for a period of one month—from one meeting to the next.

It’s easy to see what’s in it for the member: an opportunity to read this diverse body of work without spending a dime. What’s in it for the contributing author? A chance to connect with a broader readership from among our members. So if you’re a published author, please consider donating one copy of each of your published works to our new lending library. If you’re a member, please feel free to stop by and check out the books available. And if you like what you read, spread the word. There’s no better publicity than word of mouth.

To donate a book to the AWC Lending Library, please contact Lynda Fitzgerald (lyndafitz1@yahoo.com) or Delores Gardner (gardner0404@comcast.net). And of course, since this is a new concept for our club, we need books. Please contribute.

We thank Lynda Fitzgerald and Dee Gardner in advance for their assistance with this activity.

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October Meeting Summary by George Weinstein

At 1:45 pm Carol O’Dell spoke about her book Mothering Mother, and gave a crash course in marketing yourself and your work, which includes creating a website, blogging and participating in others’ blogs, joining forums, volunteering in The Atlanta Writers Club and other literary organizations, and maximizing the benefits of Google.

Our 3 pm speaker panel of “Accidental Authors”—Augusta Trobaugh and Jackie K. Cooper—told of their very different journeys that yielded many of the same lessons. These included making sure you have polished work ready if someone asks for it, and following through on every opportunity, no matter how seemingly insignificant; you never know when or where Opportunity will knock.

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eQuill

Carol O’Dell, Augusta Trobaugh & Jackie K. Cooper

Read donated works free of charge.
Dinner with Author Carol O’Dell.

Sonny Brewer, Pia Ehrhardt dinner event

David Fulmer with one-on-one session with AWC member, Buzz Bernard.

David Fulmer workshop at Cabin Path.
The 2007 Wellness and Writing Connections Conference, sponsored by American InterContinental University-Dunwoody Campus, will focus on the connection between expressive writing and well-being, both physical and emotional.

"Research shows that when people write their deepest thoughts and feelings about stressful events, their heart rates slow, their bodies are better able to fight infection, and they experience a general sense of well-being." - James W. Pennebaker, PhD

**Keynote Speakers**

*James W. Pennebaker, PhD Chair of Psychology at University of Texas - Austin Keynote: "How and When Expressive Writing Works"

Dr. Pennebaker’s research has earned honors from the American Psychological Association and research grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Mental Health. An internationally recognized leader in this field, he is the author of several books. Since 1980, he has published over 150 journal articles and research studies on the connections between writing and health.

*John Fox, CPT President of the Institute for Poetic Medicine Keynote: "The Healing Art of Poem-Making"

John Fox formed the Institute for Poetic Medicine, committed to awakening the creative and healing voice in the human spirit. He teaches at the collegiate and post graduate level at the California Institute of Integral Studies, John F. Kennedy University, Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, the University of California, Santa Cruz and Holy Names University. Fox has authored several books and presents across the United States and in many other countries, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Israel and South Korea.

**Presenters, in Order of Appearance**

*William Sessions, PhD - "Writing Through Her Illness: Flannery O'Connor's Lupus*

*Jeff Berman - "The Role of Writing Through Grief"

(Continued on page 10)
eQuill

AWC members enjoy marketing advice from Carol O'Dell

Carol D. O'Dell presents her 10 Fingers of Marketing

Scenes From October’s Meeting

Carol O’Dell signs Mothering Mother

Ms. O'Dell with Tara Coyt and Marty Aftewicz

Augusta Trobaugh and Jackie Cooper as "Accidental Authors"

Mr. Cooper and Ms. Trobaugh enjoy their fans.
Kathy Conway, PhD, and Janet Gilsdorf, MD - "Writing an Illness Narrative: A Physician and a Psychotherapist Reflect on Their Experiences with Cancer"

Anita Salaman, PhD and Ann Lynn, MSW - "Therapeutic Writing Guidelines for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Depression".

Janel Sexton, PhD and Terry Ratner RN, MFA - "Nursing Narratives: Writing as Coping for Health Care Providers"

Marjorie Ryerson, MFA - "Expressive Writing Workshop: Writing for Your Life"

Cathie Borrie MPH, LLB and Michael McColl, MFA - "Writing Memoir and Grief Recovery"

The Conference will be held in downtown Atlanta at the
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
265 Peachtree Center Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

For more information and to register, go to
http://www.wellnessandwritingconnections.com
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
265 Peachtree Center Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
404.965.6496
jevans@aiuniv.edu
thought as of yet. Please accept my apologies now in the event that you are the victim of that first incident of a breach in my civilized conduct.

Until that coup occurs, I thought I would outline the requirements of membership in The Atlanta Writers Club. I was surprised to learn of the vast number of regulations, and will thus require a two-part column. As with many laws created by government, no enforcement of these laws exists, so you’re very much on an honor system to judge your performance. Ready?

1. One must possess and be aware of their desire to succeed as a writer. You are not required to be a published author to join the AWC. In fact, a large number of our members are not yet published. So if you have that haunting voice that whispers encouragement for you to pursue your literary talents, we may be a good source for that exploration.

2. Members must honor the monthly meeting date. The concept of a group of writers getting together to discuss literary items has been in place for centuries. The Atlanta Writers Club started in 1914. The club has converted this informal gathering to a presentation by two varied speaker programs on the third Saturday of each month. Attendance is not mandatory. In fact, we have some members that have not attended a meeting for years. But then I turn around and there they are, acting as a regular participant. Networking, speaking with old and new peers, and being excited that this particular month’s program is available to them because they are a member. I have never left a meeting without learning something from each speaker, but also recognizing that not everyone can attend our regular meetings.

3. Members must read about and promptly consider participation in special events, such as workshops and Dinner with Author events. Thank goodness this law is not enforced. With Dana Wildsmith’s Poetry Workshop, David Fulmer’s Fiction Writing, and Hollis Gillespie’s Memoir Writing, our members would be ragged with all this participation. Plus we have more workshops in the near future, starting in early 2008. I tried to explain to the AWC Board that most of our members are human, but they just would not listen. “More workshops,” they declared. The board wants to do everything possible to assist with the advancement of the writing careers of our members. And now the members themselves are starting to enjoy these workshops and seminars. They claim to be learning and improving their craft and knowledge of the industry. “More workshops,” I grumble.

4. Members are required to volunteer at least twenty hours per week.

I’m out of space for this month’s column, so... to be continued...
Jessica King

Even though writing has been one of my passions for a long time, I am just in the beginning stages of any pursuit of a literary-related career. I recently graduated from the University of Georgia and am now teaching 9th and 12th grade English at Alpharetta High School. I also live in Atlanta and am hoping that I will be able to reach my goal within the upcoming year of writing for a local magazine or newspaper. One of my wildest dreams is that someday my twin sister and I, who is currently an artist living in Chicago, will be able to start the business that we’ve always wanted. I am looking forward to the knowledge and experiences that I will be able to gain from the Atlanta Writers Club!

June Smith

Thanks for the interest in my past, present and future. I was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama where I received my Southern drawl. I went to the University of Alabama and Samford University where I received a B.S. and M.S. in Education. I married, taught school for six years, and had two children, Mary Louise and Edward. I also had a reading and math program at North Springs United Methodist church for ten years. Like Grandma Moses and her art, I started writing late in life. I have only been published once in the Atlanta Journal for an article on travel in Kentucky. {I sent that article in on a lark. } I have completed a memoir on my experiences over the months before and after the death of my husband. These experiences put me in contact with women who were faith healers, psychics, and shamans. The title of my book is: MEETING WITH THE DEVIL.

Lauretta Hannon

Lauretta Hannon is a commentator on National Public Radio's All Things Considered and the author of an upcoming memoir titled Cracker Queen: Stories of a Jagged, Joyful Life, to be published in 2009 by Gotham Books (Penguin Group USA). Among other things, the book celebrates strong, authentic Southern women (Cracker Queens).

She is a college marketing director and is nationally recognized as the most award-winning marketing communications expert in higher education today.

Lauretta has sixteen chapters to write in the next twenty-one weeks, so you won’t see her at any meetings until next spring! She invites you to visit her at thecrackerqueen.com.
training manuals taught me to organize my writing, to drag the reader through it. Everything taught me. Writing a novel involves every skill you ever learned.”

At 3 pm on November 17, we will welcome Ann Kempner Fisher (www.creative-editing.com), who has enjoyed a stellar career as an editor, script coordinator and script reader/consultant. She now offers her editing services to private clients and handles virtually all types of fiction and nonfiction.

Over the years, she’s developed a keen sense for what works in storytelling and what doesn’t. “All really good novels are character-driven,” she says. “If you can’t write a character that [readers] care about, you won’t be successful. I’m always impressed with very good dialog and characters that engage me.”

Ann has seen every mistake a writer can make and notes the common ones that trip up many writers. “They tend to focus too much on story and not have a good grasp on character and writing dialog, which has to move the story along and not be idle chitchat. I always ask writers who send me a manuscript to tell me what they feel are the weaknesses in their work and almost invariably I find a whole different set of problems. [Also,] writers tend to use too many points of view. They may separate them by chapters [but] writers need to learn to stick to one-to-two characters’ viewpoints, otherwise it weakens the main character’s point of view.”

Naturally Ann recommends that writers seek out a professional editor when they’ve finished their books or short stories, but self-editing and rewriting are critical during the creative process. To edit their own nonfiction or fiction, Ann says, writers “need to learn to be objective, to be able to look at their own work as if it’s just another book they’ve opened and ask themselves on every page, ‘Is it holding the reader’s interest?’” Listing other aspects on which to focus, she includes the following: “Try to be more succinct, use good metaphors, be original in prose, make sure the dialog is about something.” She also recommends, “Put the manuscript away for a couple of months and try to see it with a fresh pair of eyes.”

Here are some of the topics she’ll focus on during her 3 pm talk on November 17:
1. Editing is as much changing and adding as deleting.
2. Good writing is rewriting.
3. An explanation of the process of editing, with some useful handouts.
4. A reality check about publishing, including how to write a query letter and a synopsis.
5. And, this veteran of the Broadway, Hollywood, and literary worlds promises, “I have a lot of stories. I’ll try to be as amusing as possible.”
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

November 3rd  Donald McCaig - Rhett Butler's People
November 4th  Lou Dobbs - Independents Day
November 5th  Jan Karon - Home to Holly Springs
November 14th Mike Lupica - The Comeback Kid Series
November 15th Elizabeth Musser - Searching for Eternity
November 27th David Baldacci - Stone Cold
Publish or perish.

Court TV invites you to enter the
Search for the Next Great Crime
Writer Contest™

If you or your members have an idea for a crime
novel, this is a chance to land a book deal.
Contest deadline: 11:59p.m. ET on 11/11/07.

Find out how at courttv.gather.com

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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY to enter the Search for the Next Great Crime Writer Contest. Contest open to legal residents of the 50 United States and D.C., age 18 or older, who are Gather.com members; except individuals under exclusive book publishing contracts. Subject to Official Rules. Void where prohibited. Contest starts 10:00am ET 10/01/07; ends 11:59pm ET 1/02/08. For Official Rules and information on how to enter, send a SASE to Crime Writer Contest 600 Third Ave., 6th Fl, NY, NY 10016 or go to courttv.gather.com. Sponsors: Courtroom Television Network LLC; Borders, Inc.; Gather, Inc.

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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!

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.)

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 Tasha Alexander, historical mystery writer and author of Elizabeth: The Golden Age (now in theaters), on writing period fiction and the secrets of creating a good mystery.

January 19, 2008 --
1:45-2:30 Philip Lee Williams, novelist, poet, essayist, composer, and UGA creative writing professor, on the adventures of a one-man band.
3:00-3:45 Screenwriter, FilmPark pioneer, and Spielberg protégé Michael Lucker talks about turning your stories into scripts.

Diane Thomas
Tasha Alexander
Cassandra King
Tasha Alexander
Philip Lee Williams
Michael Lucker
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 rjacob@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 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 on the first Saturday of every month at 10 am - noon at a member’s home. E-mail Ken Schmansi at kschmansi@yahoo.com or call him at 770-377-1771 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.

Marietta: Katie Ryle hosts an all genre group at Cool Beans Café on the square in Marietta, next to the Welcome Center. This group meets on the 3rd Monday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. For more information, please email Katieryle@yahoo.com.

Midtown: a fiction group meets every other Wednesday. For additional information, please email Jennifer Taylor at jrtaylor1@mac.com.

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 pepatterson@bellsouth.net or call her at 404-842-0824 to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting. Note: This group is currently full, but please contact to be placed on stand-by list.

Roswell - An all-genre group meets on 2nd and 4th Fridays, 6-8 pm at The Atlanta Bread Company near corner of Hwy 92 and Woodstock Rd. E-mail George Weinstein at gijweinstein@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.

Decatur - A children’s and YA fiction group meets Tuesdays, 10 am - 12:15; currently at the Java Monkey on Church Street, almost opposite the Decatur MARTA station. There currently is one opening. If you are interested, e-mail Ricky Jacobs at rjacob@townesquare.net. You are asked to submit (as an attachment) about five pages of your writing plus a brief description of yourself and what you do.

Snellville – Angie Cush hosts an all genre group at Barnes & Noble in Snellville that meet each Sunday evening, 6-8pm. Contact Angie for more details at angcush@aol.com.

Poetry: Meets on the first Saturday of the month, 1-3 PM at Nirvana Café in Roswell. Contact Jill Jennings at magisra_jennings@yahoo.com or call Jill at 770-516-2482 to get on the distribution list for the meeting and learn more details.
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](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

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**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](http://www.gpc.edu/~duniss/WritersCircle.htm).
Fall Contest Rules

The Atlanta Writer’s Club hosts two writing contests each year in order to recognize the outstanding works of our members. The contests are also an opportunity for members to enhance their writing credentials by receiving an award from Atlanta’s oldest writing organization.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The AWC Fall Writing Contest is open to all current, paid club members. (To join AWC, please contact the Membership VP, Kate Copsey at ktcopsey@aol.com or President Marty Aftewicz at Marty@atlantawritersclub.org. You may also join or renew online at www.atlantawritersclub.org.)

Submissions must be original, unpublished, and un-awarded work.

DEADLINE:

November 18, 2007. (Submissions received after this date will automatically be disqualified.)

AWARDS:

$1600 in cash and prizes! (Awarded at January, 2008 meeting.) Three award levels in each category.

FIRST PLACE $50 CASH PRIZE

SECOND PLACE $30 CASH PRIZE

THIRD PLACE $20 CASH PRIZE

ALL WINNERS RECEIVE: A one-year membership in the GET IT WRITE Author’s Circle ($100 value; includes expanded list of writing contests, group coaching and an online resource library for writers)
CONTEST CATEGORIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>Any subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>Any Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>Any subject, any genre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juvenile Story</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>Fiction or Nonfiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serious Poetry</td>
<td>60 lines</td>
<td>Any form, any subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light Verse</td>
<td>20 lines</td>
<td>Rhyming, metered (e.g. limerick)</td>
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ENTRY FEE:
There is no fee to enter.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
Failure to adhere to any of the guidelines will lead to disqualification.

1. You may enter all 5 categories if you choose however only one entry per category
2. Adhere to the word count maximum established for each category
3. Use the AWC Standard Submission Form (SSF) for each entry (see below)
4. Submit one manuscript and one SSF per entry.

Electronic file or CD entries may be submitted via e-mail, postal mail or in person

Manuscript Format
+ DO NOT place your name anywhere on the manuscript entry
+ Only Word files (no PDF, Power Point, Publisher, etc.) will be accepted
+ Use 12 pt, Black, Times New Roman font; 1 inch margins; double spaced lines
+ White background (no colors, photos, graphics or images); 8-1/2 x 11, Portrait layout
+ First page: Place full Title and Category in upper left corner
Subsequent pages: title in upper left corner; page number in upper right corner
Standard Submission Form (SSF):
The SSF MUST be submitted as a separate file, document or attachment. DO NOT include the SSF on the same document as your fiction or nonfiction entry. SSF should include:

- Author’s Name
- Contest Category
- Title of Entry
- Word Count or Line Count

Entries will be accepted as an electronic file or on a CD:
1. E-mail Word files to: Contact@TaraYCoyt.com
2. Postal Mail your CD to: Tara Y. Coyt, P.O. Box 79426, Atlanta, GA 30357
Hand-deliver your CD to: Tara Y. Coyt during an AWC member meeting

ABSOLUTELY NO PAPER ENTRIES. Manuscripts will not be returned. Be sure to retain a copy of your work.

SAMPLE MANUSCRIPT

Title: My Short Story

Category: Short Story

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SAMPLE SSF

Jane Doe

Short Story

My Short Story

Word Count: 2,997
THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB

Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

Please make checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club: ☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

2008 Membership Dues:

- $40 – 2008 Membership is valid through 12/31/2008
- Students, ages 25 and under, pay only $30 year-round

Donation in the amount of $_________

Total $_________

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

• 2008 Membership Year runs from 1/1/08 through 12/31/08
• If you are renewing, please indicate only your name below unless other contact info has changed

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: ______/_____/______