We are a social and educational club where local writers meet to discuss the craft and business of writing. We also sponsor contests for our members and host expert speakers from the worlds of writing, publishing, and entertainment.

Agenda for Next Meeting—Mar15, 2008

- 12:00-12:45 David Fulmer fiction workshop, part 3 of 4
- 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: Preview of Upcoming Events
- 1:45-2:30 Mitchell Graham, fantasy writer and champion fencing master, on publishing basics and developing characters.
- 3:00-3:45 Renee Dodd, creative writing instructor and first-time novelist, will discuss writing for publication.

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Passion for Words by Marty Aftewicz, President

A Pitch Worth Taking

It’s almost baseball season so I am compelled to share a tiny bit of that feeling that I get every spring. I am tossing a special pitch about the Creativity Workshop with Darnell Arnoult on April 12th.

This workshop has some different components from our previous AWC events. Normally, our author instructors maximize your time by requesting preliminary work which will either be reviewed or utilized during the event. This time, there is No homework; I like that as- Again, most of our events successful author that produces and that reviews of our event offer a highly talented and feature a highly talented and vides instruction through lecture or submitted work. On this occasion, Darnell Arnoult will work with attendees to bring out their creativity. Participants can apply this to current or future projects, with actual writing completed at the event. Imagine that – writers writing. It certainly must be spring.

Now another aspect of this workshop that I suspect will be somewhat different is the focus. I have met Darnell Arnoult, and I don’t think there will be anyone falling asleep in her class. I mean, she is one of those instructors that commands your attention with a southern blend of ferocity and charm. In fact, I believe it would be worth participating just to see Darnell coerce the creativity from our AWC students. She is that good.

And then of course, there will be spring at The Cabin Path. I am not a nature lover. In fact, I love the sound of a wood chipper in the morning. But these 52 acres, with restored log cabin, stone labyrinth, burial sites of Civil War soldiers and medicine wheels of ancient Indians almost makes me enjoy the outdoors. I am certain there will be all sorts of flowers though I have no idea of their origin or name. That’s a nice bonus. But none of those attractions of nature overcomes my desire for the Southern buffet that owner Sarah Crutchfield serves up each time we host a workshop there.

So I encourage participation. For only $90, it’s a day that you will remember. And it just may be the day that provides that key creativity ingredient to put your project back on track, or help you take those first critical steps. See more details and how to register for this workshop elsewhere in this newsletter.
February Speaker Summary – by Shyla Nambiar

At 1:45, Patricia Sprinkle, author of nonfiction and fiction works, including many novels in the mystery writing genre, spoke on her background as a writer and the mystery of writing. She regaled the audience with humorous anecdotes from her writing career and discussed her philosophy on writing. She believes that “desire to write is a gift to writers” and that “there are people out there who need to hear what you have to say.”

At 3:00 p.m., Nathan McCall, former journalist, Emory University faculty member and nonfiction writer, discussed his first foray into fiction, Them and the challenges it posed. He explained why he felt fiction afforded him the opportunity to convey truths about race and class in America, his preparation for writing a novel, and his methods, such as extensive outlining, drafting, and revising.

Monthly Writing Contest (Not an AWC managed event)

- **Scratch**, the monthly writing contest itching to discover new talent.
- This contest seeks new short fiction and offers rotating guest judges who are authors, agents, editors and publishers.
- Help them discover new writing talent. Let them help you build publication credits.
- Small fee to enter, cash prizes and publication every month, plus annual anthology.

For more information and links to ENTER this month, go to [http://www.scratchcontest.net/](http://www.scratchcontest.net/)

NEW CRITIQUE GROUP

AWC member Cindy Morrow has started a new critique group in downtown Woodstock, at the Foxtale Books just off Main St near the Gazebo. The group meets every other Wednesday evening from 7-9 PM. Interested participants should contact Cindy Morrow at cindy.morrow@gmail.com
Creativity Workshop: Finding Inspiration in a Photograph
**Enhance Your Current Writing Project or Start a New One with Inspiration**
Saturday, April 12, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**THE WORKSHOP:**
Language, character, action—these are the keys to solid writing of almost any kind, particularly the craft of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Using photographs as our inspiration, we will explore the value of experience, the limitations of memory, the resource of observation, the importance of imposed—if temporary—chaos, the advantages of play, discovery, decision, association, and most importantly, the crucial foundation of the concrete, the sentient, the meaningful specific. Bring pen and paper. This will be a hands-on, working event: lots of writing, and plenty of tools and material at day’s end to keep you writing for some time to come.

**THE INSTRUCTOR:**
Darnell Arnoult holds a BA from UNC-Chapel Hill and MA from NC State University. Her novel *Sufficient Grace* (Free Press/Simon and Schuster), was a SIBA Fiction Book of the Year nominee and Weatherford Award finalist, Book Sense Reading Group Pick, and Borders’ Summer Reading Selection. Her collection *What Travels With Us: Poems* (LSU Press) won a 2005 Weatherford Award for Appalachian Literature and was named 2006 SIBA Poetry Book of the Year. She was named Writer of the Year in 2007 by the Tennessee Writers Alliance. She teaches creative writing in workshops throughout the southeast and is a contributing fiction editor to *The Pinch*, a literary journal published by the University of Memphis. For more information on Darnell Arnoult, visit her website: www.darnellarnoult.com

**THE SCHEDULE ON APRIL 12:**

**Arrivals:** Arrive between 8:30 and 9:00 and enjoy coffee and donuts.

**Early morning:** Introduction to the Sublime Triangle and the principles at play in this method of character and story development.

Selection of photograph and introduction to questions list.

**Break:** Wander outdoors and enjoy springtime in the country.

**Late morning:** Further work with questions and beginning prompts. Multi-genre application of the foundational principles of this approach to writing.

**Buffet Lunch:** Enjoy a home-cooked Southern buffet & break into discussion groups.

**Early afternoon:** More prompts and instruction on decision vs. discovery.

**Break:** (Possibly jumping jacks.)

**Late afternoon:** How to discover the story’s or the poem’s voice.

Some sharing and review, concluding remarks, and marching orders.

**THE LOCATION:**
The Cabin Path, www.thecabinpath.com: a lovely nature retreat on 52 acres in South Fulton County—a short drive from the city, but with enough wilderness to feel like you escaped (or returned) to the country. With spring in full flower, explore the restored 19th-century log cabin, discover Native American signal trees and an ancient medicine wheel, walk the labyrinth, visit a family of horses, and stroll the shoreline of a huge lake. If this place doesn’t stoke your creative fires, nothing will!

**To register:**
Send your check, payable to The Atlanta Writers Club, to George Weinstein at 1285 Willeo Creek Drive, Roswell, GA 30075. Upon receipt of your check, George will provide you with driving directions and will send a reminder prior to April 12.

**The class size is limited to the first 24 to register.**

**THE COST:**
$90 per AWC member, which covers the instructor’s fee and a portion of your meals. The club is subsidizing the rest of the expenses to thank you for your membership. If you have not yet joined/renewed for 2008, your cost will be $130, which includes the membership dues.
AWC member Noel Griese, of Anvil Publishers, Inc. is hosting their Spring Book Show. Please see details below.

SPRING BOOK SHOW 2008 AUTHOR-PUBLISHER SEMINAR AGENDA

"Writing, Editing, Publishing and Marketing Your Book"

Room To Be Announced, Hall B, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta

Friday, March 28, 2008


9:45 - 10:45 a.m. – Peter Bowerman, successful freelance writer and author of the Well-Fed Writer and Well-Fed Publisher book series, “How To Turn One Book into a Full-Time Living”

10:45 - 11:00 a.m. - Break

11:00 a.m. - noon – Dr. David Ryback, Ph.D., associate editor of the Journal of Humanistic Psychology and book columnist for Speaker, the magazine of the National Speakers Association, “Giving Birth to Quintuplets: How I Got Five Books Going at the Same Time".

noon – 1:00 p.m. – Guided tour of Spring Book Show by owner Larry May, L.B. May & Associates, followed by lunch break

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. – Edward Nawotka, Southern correspondent, Publishers Weekly, and book columnist, Bloomberg News, "Getting Trade Press Attention for Your Book."

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Angela Durden, business writer and children’s book author, “Writing and Marketing Children’s Books”

3:00 - 3:15 p.m. – Break
3:15 – 4:15 p.m. – Ahmad Maradjji, CEO, Apex Book Manufacturing, “Digital Printing’s Impact on Publishing: How To Profitably Use Print on Demand (POD) and Short-Run Print Production in Your Publishing Business”
4:15 - 4:45 p.m. – Russ Marshalek, marketing and publicity director, Wordsmiths Books. Decatur, Ga., the most receptive store in the Atlanta market for author signings, on “A Fish with a Bicycle on Myspace Is Still a Fish with a Bicycle”

Saturday, March 29, 2008

8:45 - 9:15 a.m. – Charlsie Russell, the “Loblolly Writer,” “How I’m Marketing My Self-Published Fiction.”

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. – Darlene Ford Wofford, rape victim turned fiction author, has attracted international attention to her writing in addition to generating local interest in the Atlanta media. Her presentation is entitled “From Toastmistress to Weekend Marketing Warrior: How I Made It to the Morning TV News.”
9:45 - 10:45 a.m. – **Josh Batchelder**, graphologist certified by the International Graphoanalysis Society and author of two books on how to profile both sociopathic and normal personalities from handwriting samples, “Successful Author Appearances/Talks.”

10:45 - 11:00 a.m. – Break

11:00 a.m. - noon – **Bobbie Christmas**, book doctor and author of nationally acclaimed books on writing and editing, “Write In Style, and You Write to Win!”

noon – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch break

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. – **Sy Alexander**, successful children’s book author, “The $300 Sale from the Lady under the Hair Dryer... and Other Ways To Market Your Books”

1:30 - 2:00 p.m. – **Atlanta area professional groups for writers** discuss benefits of membership and sign up new members outside room.

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – **Patricia Fry**, president, Small Publishers, Artists and Writers Network (SPAWN), and the author of 27 books, many of them on writing and publishing, “Two Simple Steps to Successful Authorship”

3:00 - 3:15 p.m. – Break

3:15 - 4:00 p.m. – **John Shableski**, sales manager, Diamond Book Distributors, and national expert on the graphics novel industry, “The Emerging Graphic Novels Publishing Industry.”
Members of The Atlanta Writers Club and our associates are cordially invited to Emory University for
"A Fine Excess: A Three-Day Celebration of Poetry at Emory University"
A selection of ten of the top living U.S. poets will be reading or will be interviewed during the celebration, which is free and open to the public.


While you're there you also can check out two great exhibitions:
Democratic Vistas: Exploring the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library is curated by Kevin Young, Atticus Haygood Professor of English and Creative Writing, and draws on the 75,000-volume Danowski collection of English language poetry, donated to Emory in 2003. This exhibition, accompanied by a published catalog, includes rare editions of some of the 20th century’s most important works of poetry, ranging literally from A-Z, from W.H. Auden to Louis Zukofsky.

A companion exhibition, curated by Jennifer Brady, Visions and Revisions: An Exhibition of Poems in Process, traces the creative process through 16 sets of manuscript drafts including the worksheets of Seamus Heaney, Sylvia Plath and Natasha Trethewey.

To learn more and/or register to attend this free celebration, visit the website at http://marbl.library.emory.edu/excess_intro.html. If you have questions, contact us at poetryconference@emory.edu or at 404.727.0360.

Terry Kay to Keynote
Eleventh Blue Ridge Writers' Conference

March 28 – 29, 2008

North Georgia Technical College
Blairsville, Georgia

Featuring:

James Smith, Poetry Editor for Southern Poetry Review
Brian Seidman, Editor for New South Books
Steven Harvey, Essayist

For more details, visit: http://www.brmaa.net/writers_conference.htm
The third segment of these workshops will be conducted prior to our meeting on March 15.

The Atlanta Writers Club and David Fulmer are starting off 2008 with one of those “too good to be true” workshops. We expect 2008 to be a year filled with more workshops, seminars, and literary events than ever before in the history of the AWC. This is your opportunity to utilize your AWC membership to attend this workshop. If you have not yet renewed, this is an excellent opportunity. You will certainly save significantly more than the cost of your $40 membership by participating in these workshops.

So we shall start with David Fulmer presenting mini-workshops fashioned after his highly acclaimed Fiction Workshops that he has conducted at Margaret Mitchell House and for our club members in the past. Of course, these seminars will not be as in-depth, but will certainly provide meaningful education for fiction writing from the viewpoint of a master of this craft.

The Atlanta Writers Club is subsidizing David’s entire fee for these mini-workshops – so they are free to you. We are doing so to demonstrate our commitment to advancing the writing skills of our members and help you all achieve your writing goals.

To make this even more convenient, these workshops will be conducted at our standard meeting location at Georgia Perimeter College, just prior to our monthly meetings in January through April.

Please honor our instructor and fellow students. Be in your seats by noon so we may begin the classes on time. We must conclude by 12:45 for networking prior to the start of the regular AWC monthly meeting.

Pre-registration is not required, so merely arrive prior to noon on March 15th.

FREE—Mini Fiction Workshop with David Fulmer

by Marty Aftewicz

When: Noon – 12:45 PM
When: March 15, and April 19 (And then stay for our regular meetings that afternoon)
Cost: Free to members

When: Noon – 12:45 PM
When: March 15, and April 19 (And then stay for our regular meetings that afternoon)
Cost: Free to members
March Interviews by George Weinstein, Program Chair & 1st VP

Our 1:45 pm speaker is Mitchell Graham, who attended college at Ohio State University on a fencing scholarship, earned a law degree, and practiced for twenty years. He has represented the United States many times in international fencing competitions and has won or placed in the finals of over 83 separate tournaments. He is the author of three fantasy novels, including his much-heralded debut work The Fifth Ring, and has now written a mystery-thriller, Majestic Descending. Read about Mitchell and his work at http://www.mitchellgraham.net

Q: What drew you to the fantasy genre?
It's fairly well known in the industry that I corresponded with both C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as a child and into my early teens. Also, my background in fencing helped quite a bit. They say to write what you know about.

Q: What would readers unfamiliar with fantasy novels discover and enjoy in your work in particular?
I write both in the mystery and fantasy genres. The common thread that runs throughout my books is that the story has to be based on character. Nobody ever tuned in to see Captain Kirk fire his phaser. They tuned in to see Captain Kirk, who just happened to be holding a phaser. It's generally been said by critics and reviewers that the action/fight scenes in The Fifth Ring series stand out along with the dialogue. I'm very pleased about that.

Q: Every genre has its superstars—and sometimes even those who are deceased remain the standard-bearers. When undertaking the Fifth Ring trilogy, how did you overcome the inevitable comparisons you knew editors, critics, and readers would make to Tolkien, et al?
Because of the word "ring" comparisons were inevitable, but the books really have nothing in common other than both are epic journeys, assuming you're referring to Tolkien. There is no magic in The Fifth Ring series, no wizards, and certainly no elves. I decided to incorporate advanced technology in a medieval setting to take magic's place, but that's as far as it went. To some extent, all epics tend to follow a formulaic path, e.g., a young boy or girl from a rural setting is forced to leave home under the tutelage of an older, wiser man. They go on a journey of discovery and growth. Authors have been utilizing that plot device since Gilgamesh took his trip.

Q: Having established yourself as a well-regarded fantasy writer, what challenges came with your switch to writing mystery-thrillers, and will you explore another genre with your next work?
The leap to mystery-thrillers wasn't very difficult, particularly since I'm an attorney. The courtroom stuff and legal scenes were actually the easiest for me to write. The only hurdle was convincing the editors that I could do both. They were initially of the opinion that there would be no crossover between the two genres. It was a pleasant surprise to find the vast majority of sci-fi/fantasy fans embraced both sets of books without a problem. In fact, they tended to be pretty enthusiastic about them.

I suspect working in two genres is enough, so I don't think I'll try any others. My first editor is still sticking pins in a Mitchell look-alike doll.

(Continued on page 10)
Q: What would you like to talk to the Atlanta Writers Club about on March 15?

The bones of getting published and some things to avoid, along with developing characters.

Our 3:00 pm speaker is Renee (pronounced Renny) Dodd. About her upbringing, she writes, "Born in Atlanta, my childhood was divided between urban and rural Georgia, so that I spent as much time drawing in the High Museum as I did hunting arrowheads in the pine woods of Elsberry Mountain. My grandfather was football hall of famer Coach Bobby Dodd—a big-hearted man and a wonderful storyteller.” She earned her MFA in Fiction Writing at the University of Houston, where she says she “learned to toughen up, and revise, revise, revise.” Renee teaches creative writing at Georgia College & State University, and online with the Gotham Writers’ Workshop. Her debut novel, A Cabinet of Wonders, received starred reviews from Kirkus and the Library Journal. Please visit her website at http://www.reneedodd.com/

Q: Every generation of writers seems to rediscover the world of carnies—what inspired you to write about these often misunderstood and sometimes demonized people?

I have always been fascinated with carnivals and especially sideshows, and I found myself becoming a little frustrated because most books or movies I found that dealt with the subject seemed to just use the "freaks" in the freak show as atmosphere or to set off the main "normal" characters in some way. I also didn't like how often difference was associated with fear and danger in these works, so that "freak" characters showed up in horror more than any other genre. Eventually, as a writer, I came around to realizing that if something I wanted to read wasn't out there, then that meant there was a void to fill, and why not try and fill it myself? So I did my best to create a book where these marginalized characters became the center in ways that would break through the readers preconceived feelings of pity or fascination into something more intimate.

On a related note, Geek Love by Katherine Dunn is a great novel (it was one of the only freak-show centered literary novels out there when I began writing A Cabinet of Wonders) and I truly admire the artistry of that book, but Dunn's approach to the subject is hyper-real, over the top, and at times, magically real, while I wanted to write something that felt more immediate and relatable to the reader-something that would feel like a backstage pass into the carny freak show world as it might have actually existed. So the "void" I’m talking about wasn't a total lack, just a lack of books that got inside the subject the way I was most hungry for on a personal level.

Q: Where did you find your best sources material for researching your subjects?

I began my research where I almost always do: online. Of course you have to take most of what you find with a grain of salt, and you always have to consider the source of the site, but it’s a great starting point. From there I was able to learn enough to get my mind working and to get more excited about the project, and to also discover a number of books and authors that I might not have been able to discover otherwise. Then I started ordering and reading and ordering and reading. I read about freak shows, but also carnivals in general, and the 1920s, trying to gather enough info
to achieve some measure of verisimilitude.

Q: How did you select the kinds of people (the “freaks” as some would have it) who inhabit your Cabinet of Wonders?

I wanted to have a variety of different types of remarkable people in my book, so I wound up with a cast of characters that is a little more wondrous than what one might have realistically found in a mid-sized traveling carnival in 1927. I felt that to tell the story I wanted to tell, and to explore all the issues I wanted to explore, I needed to defy history in this one area. As for the specific types I wound up choosing, I went for the ones that I found most rich in terms of story. I considered (brainstormed and sketched out) more characters than wound up in the novel; the ones that made it in were simply the ones that yielded the most inspiration for me in terms of story and conflict.

Q: How did you decide on the time period and locale to set your novel, and will your next work explore a different era and setting?

The location of the novel, which was mostly the southeast with a little mid and southwest thrown in, was partly influenced by what would be a reasonable "jump" for a carnival to make from stop to stop, and highly influenced by me being a southerner and considering most other areas of the country too harsh for carny travel during any but the warmest months of the year! I chose the time period because the twenties were a golden era of success in this country, especially for carnivals. People had plenty of money in their pockets and there was very little competition in the way of entertainment options. Later on, movies and sports would start to interfere with freak show profits, not to mention the Great Depression and the Eugenics movement. The twenties were really the high point before the fall.

My next novel, which I’m in the process of revising now, is very different in setting. It takes place from about 1996 to 2006, and stays focused on Atlanta and a fictional small town outside of Atlanta. I’ll probably write another historical novel one day, but for now, I’m focused on more contemporary subjects.

Q: What would you like to discuss during your 3 pm address to the Atlanta Writers Club?

I will be prepared to focus largely on publishing (and writing as it relates to publishing) since that is naturally of interest to the group, and I’ll also keep the format mainly Q and A, since in my experience that tends to keep things more lively and interesting than if I were to just speechify.
This inaugural symposium on Georgia’s historic theaters will feature internationally renowned real estate consultant Donovan Rypkema who will be highlighting global and national trends on the arts and culture as key elements in downtown redevelopment. Additional sessions will feature speakers covering topics like block booking, group tours, marketing and innovative sales strategies. The day will include ample time for participants to meet and talk with vendor exhibitors representing products and services necessary for theater management programs.

8:30 AM Registration
Averitt Center for the Arts / Emma Kelly Theatre
33 East Main Street, Statesboro, Georgia

9:00 AM Opening Remarks & Partner Agencies

9:15 AM Keynote Speaker
Donovan Rypkema, principal of Place Economics and 25-year veteran in the field of downtown development will speak on national trends with regards to arts and entertainment in downtowns. From his travels to international locations, he brings back new ideas and perspectives to examine what works in community revitalization in the United States. Join us for a memorable opening that
will give you inspiration and ideas about incorporating your theaters events into the economic profile of your community.

11:30 AM  Tour of Downtown Galleries

12:30 PM  Luncheon
           119 CHOPS, 32 West Main Street

1:30 – 3:30 PM  Informative Sessions
How To Package And Attract Group Tours To Your Theaters
Block Booking
Creating a Marketing Network
Partnerships and Productivity

3:30 PM  Special Announcements for Future Opportunities

5:30 – 7:00 PM  Reception at Gallery 33 West
33 West Main Street

**Registration Information:**
Registration fee is $100 per person. Registration fee covers training materials, refreshments, speaker and facility costs. Fees are non-refundable. **Registration Deadline: March 4, 2008**

**Partners**

Registrations must be received by **March 4, 2008** and may be submitted via fax or mail at:

FAX: (404) 327-6867

PAYMENT: Make checks payable to the Georgia Tourism Foundation. Credit card payments cannot be accepted. Cash/check payments also accepted on-site.

MAIL: Department of Community Affairs, Attn: Cindy Eidson
       60 Executive Park South, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

Name _______________________________________________  Title __________________________________________
Organization  _______________________________________________________________________________________
Address  _____________________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip Code ___________________________  Phone __________________________________
E-mail Address ________________________________________________________________

**Questions?**
Cindy Eidson, (404) 679-3101, ceidson@dca.state.ga.us
From the Tip of My Pen

A Writer’s Tip of the Month –
March 2008
by Fran Stewart

A New Language

I woke one Sunday morning to a discussion between Krista Tippett and a woman who is an expert on the writings of Rumi, the 13th century Persian poet and mystic. My Sunday radio alarm is set to 7 a.m., when WABE (90.1 FM) presents Speaking of Faith, a National Public Radio program. Although I always keep a notebook beside my bed—what true writer is ever without a notebook handy?—still, I’m not always alert enough at that hour of the morning to get quotations precisely right. The gist of the Rumi line that she quoted, though, was this: “Learn a new language so you can see a new world.”

Learn a new language is good advice indeed, particularly for ethnocentric Americans who believe that English ought to be good enough for everyone. Despite the fact that English has gradually been adopted as an international language for politics and commerce, the very nature of a language reflects the mindset of its speakers. The ways in which American English is evolving is a reflection of the new dynamics that rule American culture. Eddress, for instance. This shortened form of e-mail address has the advantage of being concise and logical. I’d call that a good evolution.

I met the president of my Alma Mater recently at a gathering for Illinois Wesleyan University alumni in the Atlanta area. Dick Wilson believes that people who graduate from IWU should be able to write well. How earth-shaking is this? Could you meet his challenge? Probably you could, if you are a member of the Atlanta Writers Club. How many of the excellent ideas generated in the business world, though, lie unused for want of someone to write them out clearly, logically?

One of the alumni at the gathering said, “Give me an accountant who can write an intelligible paragraph, and I’ll show you someone who will own the company soon.” How sad that connecting one coherent sentence to another and yet another is a skill beyond the reach of some—should I say many?—college graduates. It is deplorable that the vocabulary of most TV programs and magazine articles is kept to a fourth-grade level. I find it hard to believe that many people are unwilling to attend a performance of Shakespeare because of a fear that the language will be too difficult to understand—yet those plays were written for people, many of whom were illiterate in terms of written language, but who had a depth of knowledge about the spoken word that far surpasses anything we’re exposed to today.

So, as we are impelled by Rumi’s advice to “learn a new language,” we may find that the language we have to learn first is our own. As we explore the surprising depth of the English language, we will discover new vistas opening before us, allowing us truly to see a new world. After that? Let’s go on to learn Spanish, French, and a little Greek, eh?
Rosemary Brittain

I took an early retirement from Emory University in March 2007. Since then, I’ve done some traveling, a
little volunteer work with Hands on Atlanta, and started my first non-fiction book. I’ve written during my entire
career – management reports, instructional manuals, faculty appointment and promotion letters. This is my first
attempt at creative writing (although promotion letters often required some creativity). I’m hoping to finish my
book this summer, and I am looking for all the help I can get on writing and publishing. A few of my favorite au-
thors are David Baldacci, Anita Shreve, Pearl Cleage, and Nicholas Sparks. I have an MBA from Pepperdine Uni-
versity. I’ve lived in the Atlanta area since 1994.

Heather Blackburn

Originally from Huntsville, AL, I graduated with a BA from the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa) in 1997,
with a major in English, minor in history. I have been a writer and editor for several trade publications (published
both nationally and internationally), but now I write strictly for my own pleasure. Several years ago, I made the
change from print to website content, and I am currently a content manager for WebMD. I have lived in Atlanta
for the past eight years. I enjoy writing, reading, photography, and am the proud owner of a pug named Lu-Lu
Belle.

Patricia Steffen

I have been a writer for life, though my career has been rewritten numerous times. I was a voracious
reader and writer as a child and studied journalism at Drake University and the University of Iowa. Subsequently,
I spent a dozen years as reporter, editor and journalism educator, earning awards for social issues writing –
women, children, aging, health care. Recently, I spent 17 years with UPS as a media relations manager. I am now
at a place where I can return to writing features, essays and, possibly, books. I look to the wealth of experience
and talent in the Atlanta Writers Club to provide knowledge as I enter this phase and encouragement when
needed.

Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

The Atlanta Writers Club is simply a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Any-
one can join, with no prior publication requirements. Membership is $40 per year, and student discounts are available. Here are a just a few
membership benefits:

**Monthly meetings.** On the third Saturday of each month, approximately 100 of our members gather to listen and learn from two guest
speakers from varied areas of the literary world. Please refer to our list of upcoming guest speakers in this newsletter.

**Workshops.** Your $40 membership provides access to outstanding writing workshops, and some are free with membership. David
Fulmer teaches a series of four Fiction Workshops prior to our monthly meetings January thru April. Members may attend his seminars
with us at no cost. Carol O’Dell instructs a marketing workshop on March 25th (But sorry, we are already beyond capacity for this event.)
Darnell Arnoul’s Creativity Workshop still had some openings as of this newsletter launch. Review information for that event elsewhere
in this newsletter.

**Critique Groups.** We now have approximately twenty (20) different critique groups available to members. Scattered about the Atlanta
metro area, these critique groups meet regularly to work with each other to read each other’s writings and recommend modifications.

**Dinner with Authors.** I routinely attend many author book signings so I wondered how I could spend just a few minutes with some of
these authors to ask them an impromptu question, or just learn more of their successful habits. In the past several months, our mem-
bers have had that experience, with authors Nathan McCall, Jedwin Smith, Carol O’Dell, James O. Born and others. We are currently
working to schedule others, and there is no admission fee to these special dinners. Members are only required to pay for their own
consumption at the restaurant. The Atlanta Writers Club pays for the author and their guests.

I could continue with additional benefits, but alas, this is only a newsletter. You may join The Atlanta Writers Club at any of our events or meet-
ings. Or pay on line at our website, using PayPal at [http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html).

If you have additional questions, contact AWC president Marty Aftewicz at Marty@atlantawritersclub.org or our Membership Vice President
David McCoy at David@atlantawritersclub.org.
Margaret Mitchell House

The club has 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:

- **March 4th** Joshilyn Jackson - The Girl Who Stopped Swimming
- **March 11th** Susan Vreeland - Luncheon of the Boating Party
- **March 13th** John Marks - Reasons to Believe
- **April 3** Nick Taylor - The Disagreement
- **April 16** Alice Hoffman - The Third Angel
- **April 21** Elizabeth Strout - Olive Kitteridge

**Check Out 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 meeting, a volunteer member 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 Lisa Heidle at lheidle@yahoo.com. Of course, since this is a new concept for the club, we need books. Please contribute.

Note: Lynda Fitzgerald and Dee Gardner founded this idea for the club, but are currently on a leave of absence. We thank them both for this idea and implementing the concept, and appreciate Lisa Heidle temporarily assisting us with this administration.

We thank Lynda Fitzgerald and Dee Gardner for their assistance with this activity.
The Tapestry of Bronze is sponsoring a series of poetry contests to celebrate Greek and Roman mythology and the Olympian gods. The subject of the first contest is Zeus (also known as Jupiter), the King of the Gods.

Each poem may be no longer than 30 lines and each poem must be in English.

The first contest opens on February 15, 2008 and remains open until March 31, 2008. Return to this site to enter during that period; the contest entry forms will then be available.

Entries will be evaluated by the owners of the Tapestry of Bronze and additional experts at their discretion. It costs nothing to submit a poem to the contest, but each contestant may enter only once, so take time to make your poem your best!

The first prize winner in each age group ("Under 18" and "18 and Over") will receive $50. Honorable Mentions may be awarded as well, but without cash prizes. If no poem is of sufficient quality, no prizes will be awarded.

All poems remain the property of the authors. However, Tapestry of Bronze reserves the right to post winning poems and those receiving Honorable Mention on the Tapestry of Bronze website.

If you have questions write to tapestry at tapestryofbronze.com.

Concerned that you don't know enough about Zeus (Jupiter) to write a poem about him? You can explore these websites:

Parada's Greek Mythology Link: A tremendously detailed resource

Theoi Greek Mythology: Exploring Classical mythology in Literature and Art

Timeless Myths: Greek myths and others as well
Welcome our New Membership Vice President

We will miss Kate Copsey, former membership vice president that recently resigned to better focus on family activities. But we welcome David W. McCoy as our incoming Membership Vice President effective March 1.

David was born in Miami and has lived in Atlanta and its surrounding suburbs since 1962. He holds degrees from Georgia Tech and Georgia State and attended a summer at Emory University on an NSF math scholarship while still in high school. While in college, he paid his dues in the retail and food industries. Since 1982 he has programmed for Delta Airlines, instructed at Georgia State, traveled North America for Deloitte and Touche, slaved for two software consulting firms he started and promptly folded, and even worked in radio. For the past 13 years, he has been ensconced as an industry analyst for Gartner, Inc. where he has written over 300 research papers and traveled the world several times over as a conference speaker and business advisor. He is happily married and has four children – all boys – ranging in age from 9 to 20.

David has extensive board-of-advisor experience: Georgia Tech's College of Computing, San Jose State University, Align Journal to name the more interesting ones. He has been a contributing editor and columnist for Business Integration Journal, was Editor-in-Chief for Gartner's monthly "Spotlight on Application Integration" and has been quoted by all the best news outlets (Business Week, CNET, ComputerWorld, CFO Magazine, CIO Magazine, Investor's Business Daily, etc.) David is a frequent guest lecturer, blogger and podcast host. His creative writing interests include short stories and a smattering of poetry. If you want to see more about David, here is his bio page from Gartner: [http://www.gartner.com/research/fellows/asset_55353_1175.jsp](http://www.gartner.com/research/fellows/asset_55353_1175.jsp)

David was recently published in McSweeney's lists at [http://www.mcsweeneyes.net/links/lists/10DavidW.McCoy.html](http://www.mcsweeneyes.net/links/lists/10DavidW.McCoy.html)
**Creative Nonfiction Writing**—Learn how to write and present your life experiences (or someone else’s) using creative nonfiction techniques. Make memories into memoirs, ideas into essays, and life into literature by creating scenes, using dialogue, and making people into active, arresting characters. Using these elements and others will make your stories more interesting and alive—and they might even be publishable!

Text: Writing Life Stories by Bill Roorbach. $99, 15 hours. Bonnie C. Harvey, PhD, published author. March 11–27, 3 Tue, 3 Thu, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
083SLTW2556A

$99, 15 hours. Bonnie C. Harvey, PhD, published author. February 12–28, 3 Tue, 3 Thu, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
083SLTW2580A

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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!

The Atlanta Writers Club Board

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Upcoming Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings (12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

March 15, 2008 —
12:00-12:45 David Fulmer fiction workshop, part 3 of 4
1:45-2:30 Mitchell Graham, fantasy writer and champion fencing master, on the writing rules for genres.
3:00-3:45 Renee Dodd, creative writing instructor and first-time novelist

April 19, 2008 —
12:00-12:45 David Fulmer fiction workshop, part 4 of 4
1:45-2:30 Karen White, prolific author of grit lit, on the craft and business of writing women's fiction
3:00-3:45 Melinda Long on writing children's books

May 17, 2008 —
1:45-2:30 Man Martin, first-time novelist and educator on techniques for writing humor in fiction.
3:00-3:45 Tina Ansa, international best-selling author, on the lessons of working with large publishers and running her own small press.
Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

Conyers: An all-genre group meets Sundays, 6-8 pm at Bernie Blanton's home. E-mail Ms. Blanton at brblanton3@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 (all kinds) meets Saturday mornings 9:30 - 12 at the Atlanta Bread Company, corner of Ponce de Leon and Church streets. There are presently two openings. If interested, e-mail Ricky Jacobs at rjacobson@townesquare.net or call him at 404-378-7365. You will be asked to submit (as an attachment) about five pages of your writing plus a brief bio.

Decatur: An adult fiction group meets Sundays, 3 pm - 5:45 at the Indie Bookstore on W. Ponce de Leon, near the Decatur Post Office. There are presently two openings. If interested, e-mail Ricky Jacobs at rjacobson@townesquare.net or call him at 404-378-7365. You will be asked to submit (as an attachment) about five pages of your writing plus a brief bio.

Decatur: A children's and YA fiction group meets every other Tuesday, 10 am - 12:15, currently at the Java Monkey on Church Street, almost opposite the Decatur MARTA station. This group is now full. If you are interested in being considered for future openings, e-mail Ricky Jacobs at rjacobson@townesquare.net or call him at 404-378-7365.

Decatur: A fiction group (all kinds) meets Thursday evenings 7:15 - 9:45 at the Atlanta Bread Company, corner of Ponce de Leon and Church streets. This group is now full. If you are interested in being considered for future openings, e-mail Ricky Jacobs at rjacobson@townesquare.net or call him at 404-378-7365.

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 Schmanski at kschmanski@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 678-627-9379 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 jrtaylor1s@mac.com.

Midtown/Buckhead: group reviews fiction novels and memoirs - no poetry or short stories. Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 6:30-8:30 at Moe's. E-mail Patricia Patterson at pepatterson@bellsouth.net to get on her distribution list. Note: The group is currently full, but you may inquire about placement on stand-by list.

Roswell: An all-genre group meets on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm at The Atlanta Bread Company near corner of Hwy 92 and Woodstock Rd. E-mail George Weinstein at jewesch@bellsouth.net 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 at the Roswell Library. E-mail Lynn Wesch at lewesch@bellsouth.net. Please e-mail her to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

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.

Woodstock: An all-genre group meets every other Wednesday evening from 7-9 PM at the Foxtale Books just off Main St near the Gazebo. Interested participants should contact Cindy Morrow at cindy.morrow@gmail.com.

Poetry: A poetry group meets on the first Saturday of the month, 1-3 pm at the Atlanta Bread Company near corner of Hwy 92 and Woodstock Rd. E-mail Jill Jennings at magistra_jennings@yahoo.com or call her at 770-516-2482 to get on her distribution list and find out the date and location of the next meeting.
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 the first meeting 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

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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 1-3 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

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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.)

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Home__________________________ Work/Cell
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E-mail address __________________________________________________________

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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: ______/_____/____