



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.

e Quill

Agenda for Next Meeting—April 19, 2008

- 12:00 – 12:45 Fiction Workshop with David Fulmer
- 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 PM *Karen White*, prolific author of grit lit, on the craft and business of writing women’s fiction.
- 2:30 – 3:00 PM *Networking and Book Signing*
- 3:00 – 3:45 PM *Melinda Long*, author of “How I Became a Pirate” and “Pirates Don’t Change Diapers”, on writing children’s books.

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Passion for Words by Marty Aftewicz, President

Why Attend Monthly Meetings?

I have noticed an alarming trend in our club that causes me substantial concern. Now that we offer all these great workshops, critique groups, dinner with author events, writers conference, and other activities, our members are starting to place less importance on our monthly meetings. So I feel compelled to remind you of the reason for our meetings, and some critical side effects.

1. Our meetings are designed to provide educational opportunities for our members by listening to our guest speakers. We have a terrific lineup of speakers who address almost every facet of the literary community.
2. Our speakers rely on good attendance. As we discuss the benefits of the AWC and attempt to attract them to speak *free* to our members, one of the major benefits is the number of expected attendees. Many speakers are reluctant to speak to a writers group because they show up and see less than ten participants. The Atlanta Writers Club is building a reputation for seating 100 or more open-minded members anxious to listen to our guests. So while membership is growing, meeting attendance is decreasing. That's an alarming trend.
3. Networking. When I first joined the AWC, I was just thrilled to see a room full of like-minded folks, themselves hungry to learn and eager to meet others like them. A rapidly growing organization is a difficult environment in which to network. Large numbers of attendees tend to decrease personal contact. I hope our social event on Friday, May 9 prior to the Writers Conference will help to promote closer relationships among our members.



So I ask you to look at your calendars over the next several months and circle the third Saturday of each month. Let's show our speakers that The Atlanta Writers Club is filled with enthusiastic members who came to hear their message. Your attendance will help us to continue to grow so we may provide the workshops and literary events that will be most useful.



WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

A new feature of the E-Quill is our list of volunteers who are currently needed. All volunteers for the below positions will receive a free Atlanta Writers Club T-Shirt and every position will receive an additional bonus. Please review the list below to learn the special rewards.

Atlanta Writers Conference: May 9-11

1. VIP Drivers Needed for the AWC Writers Conference

AWC members are needed to make airport and hotel runs on May 9, 10, and/or 11. Responsibilities include:

- Greeting agents as they arrive inside the Atlanta airport
 - Driving agents to the hotel
- And/or
- Picking up agents at the hotel
 - Driving agents to the Atlanta airport

The AWC will not pay drivers, reimburse gas expenses or pay for mileage, but you will gain unique access to bond with an agent.

Volunteer VIP drivers must have a vehicle in good condition, a valid driver's license and proof of auto insurance.

If interested, please send an email to Tara Coyt at Tara@thewriteauthorcoach.com requesting more information. The email should include:

- Subject: AWC VIP drivers
- A note indicating your interest
- Your name, phone number and email address

2. Timekeepers – The critique sessions and pitch segments will need timers. You will be assigned to a specific agent for the length of time for the entire grouping

- For critique sessions
- And/or
- Pitches

BONUS: ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ATLANTA WRITERS CONFERENCE WILL RECEIVE A FREE LUNCH WITH THE AGENTS ON SATURDAY.

AUDIO/VIDEO EXPERT

We need a member to make our lapel microphone functional with the sound system at Georgia Perimeter College. The volunteer will need to arrive early at one of our monthly meetings to hook it up. This is a new system and was recommended by the college as being compatible with their system. Interested party should email Marty@atlantawritersclub.org. Volunteer may participate in any AWC Dinner with Author event as our guest, and will be requested to make their reservation for the event when the announcement is made.

AWC MARKETING BROCHURE

We are in need of someone to upgrade our current marketing brochure to that which projects our more professional image. Person will work with the existing brochure to make improvements, obtain pricing, place the order and arrange for pickup or delivery, etc. Please contact Marty@atlantawritersclub.org. Volunteer may participate in any AWC Dinner with Author event as our guest, and will be requested to make their reservation for the event when the announcement is made.

AWC PICNIC – SATURDAY, JUNE 21

If you enjoy cooking, then this may be the perfect volunteer position for you. We are looking for volunteers to cook particular foods to complete our menu. Volunteers will be reimbursed for all costs of food acquisition. This is not a "pot luck" bring your own dish event. Volunteers will prepare the assigned portion of the meal and bring it to the picnic. We will have chafing dishes and all the accessories ready for your arrival. Interested parties should email Marty@atlantawritersclub.org. If you have a special dish in mind that you would enjoy creating for our members, please offer that suggestion. But remember, you'll be preparing that dish to feed about 100 drooling members and guests.

Volunteers may participate in any AWC Dinner with Author event as our guest, and will be requested to make their reservation for the event when the announcement is made.

March Speaker Summaries by Shyla Nambiar

At 1:45, Mitchell Graham, author of *The Fifth Ring* series and *Majestic Descending*, related facts about his writing career as well as giving detailed information on the process of finding an agent, publishing a book, and developing characters in fiction. For a successful story, he advised the group to “concentrate on character” and “use all five senses.” He also recounted some eye-opening facts on the business and financial end of publication.

At 3:00, Renee Dodd, author of *A Cabinet of Wonders* and a creative writing instructor, entertained a question and answer format on the craft of writing and the art of getting published. She spoke on how to overcome writer’s block, develop plot and character, and how to obtain an agent. She advised looking for an agent early in his or her career who is trying to build a client list, and, in writing fictional content, “go for what you are passionate about.”

Celebrate National Poetry Month

The Georgia Poetry Society

Saturday, April 12, 2008

10:30am-12:00pm

We will have three dynamic poets from the **Georgia Poetry Society** come out and share their work and expertise with us. There will also be an opportunity for other poets in the audience to share one of their poems with the group. Please call the library for directions. Refreshments will be served.

Participating Georgia Poetry Society Poets

Janice Townley Moore

Ira E. Harrison

Jill Jennings – AWC member



Free and open to the public

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System

Dr. Robert E. Fulton Regional Library at Ocee

5090 Abbotts Bridge Rd

Johns Creek, GA 30005

770-360-8897x222



Spring 2008 Writing Contest

CATEGORIES

<u>Genre</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Specifications</u>
Short Story	3,000 words	Any subject
Article	1,000 words	News/CurrentEvents/Opinion/Travel/Entertainment
Spiritual/Religious/Self Help	2,000 words	Nonfiction
Serious Poetry	60 Lines	Any subject

DEADLINE

Deadline: May 22, 2008

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The AWC Spring Writing Contest is open to all current, paid club members. (To join the AWC, please use the last page of this newsletter or join online at www.atlantawritersclub.org.)
2. Submissions must be *original, unpublished, un-awarded work*.

AWARDS:

There are 3 award levels in each category.

FIRST PLACE

- \$50 CASH PRIZE

SECOND PLACE

- \$30 CASH PRIZE

THIRD PLACE

- \$20 CASH PRIZE

For more details contact Tara Coyt, Contest VP - contact@taracoyt.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.

New low price:
 **\$75** 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 \$115, which includes the membership dues.



Catch the Arts in Georgia



Georgia Assembly of Community Arts Agencies Annual Conference

Dates: May 4-6, 2008

Atlanta/Cobb County

Mabel House Arts Center Complex

The arts in Georgia are a little fish in a big pond. Learn how to differentiate yourself from all the other fish at GACAA's annual arts conference this May. We'll translate what it means to take the hooks you have, or the bait you need, to catch a new fish or two.

Our guides have plumbed the depths of Georgia's artways to reel in ideas, answers and solutions for arts agencies.

This will be more than your ordinary fish tale.

You'll be taken in—hook, line and sinker.



Catch the Arts in Georgia, GACAA-Style

SAVE THE DATE: May 4-6, 2008

Writing Conference at Indian Springs

The Village at Indian Springs, Georgia is offering “Tapping Your Native Spirit”, a creative writing conference in which participants learn skills, establish goals and explore the publishing world. Drawing on the area’s rich Native-American history, the conference takes participants on a “Writer’s Vision Quest” under the guidance of many of our region’s finest authors. Venues include Generations Gallery, the historic Hanes House ante-bellum mansion, Pinky’s Parlor and Cafe, the historical Botanical Gardens and the Indian Spring Hotel-Museum. Activities such as the “Village Tour”, “Open Mic”, “Sacred Circle Campfire”, and “Casual Banquet” make the conference unique.

Among the presenters are Macon Telegraph columnist, Ed Grisamore, 1960 NASCAR Champion Rex White, WMAZ TV’s Suzanne Lawler, Indigo Publishing’s Joni Woolf, Rick Nolte & Gary Pulliam, and authors Rosemary Daniell, Walter Sorrells, Jackie Welden White and Dr. Catherine Meeks. Sunday’s, “Meet the Authors” book-signing event is open to the public.

The conference will be held April 25-27. Register early, as space is limited. For information on cost and registration, call-(770) 775-5556 or 1-(800) 352-7212

Conference Fee-\$150 Optional Friday afternoon seminar-\$35 Optional Critique-\$50

Note: This is not an AWC sponsored event, but some of our members and literary friends are involved.

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

Complete list of critique groups on p.19 of this newsletter.

Monthly Writing Contest

- **Scratch**—(Not an AWC managed event) is 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/>

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.

April
2, 3, 4

Dana Gioia, poet and chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, will open. Poets participating in the celebration include: Morri Creech, Erica Dawson, Jeff Harrison, Joseph Harrison, J.D. McClatchy, Eric McHenry, Mary Jo Salter, W. D. Snodgrass, Mark Strand, Deborah Warren, Clive Watkins, Richard Wilbur and Greg Williamson.

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.

Accolade

Sara Martin had an article published in the spring edition of "Georgia Backroads" magazine and in the April issue of PointsNorth magazine. Congratulations, Sara.



Dinner with Author Mitchell Graham

FREE—Mini Fiction Workshop with David Fulmer by Marty Aftewicz



The fourth, and last, segment of these workshops will be conducted prior to our meeting on April 19.

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.

When: Noon – 12:45 PM

When: April 19 (And then stay for our regular meetings that afternoon)

Cost: Free to members

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 April 19.



April Interviews by George Weinstein, Program Chair & 1st VP



After playing hooky from school one day in the seventh grade to read *Gone With the Wind*, Karen White, our 1:45 pm speaker on April 19, knew she wanted to become a writer—or Scarlett O'Hara. Though she's still deferring her Scarlett dream, in 1996 she decided it was time to start writing her first book. When she had a few chapters written, she sent it in to a writer's contest and it won. The finalist judge was a New York literary agent and she offered to represent Karen. That first book, *In the Shadow of the Moon*, was sold and then published in 2000. It was a double finalist in Romance Writers of America's prestigious RITA award. Karen has since published seven award-winning novels, and three more books are scheduled, including *The Memory of Water*, which was released in March 2008. When not writing, Karen spends her time reading, singing, scrapbooking, carpooling children and avoiding cooking. Read more about her and her work at <http://karen-white.com/>.

Q: How have your goals as a writer changed since crafting your first novel?

When I first started, I wrote just to “see where this goes.” It was a long, meandering process. Now I have contracts and deadlines, it's not such a leisurely pace anymore! Now, my goals aren't just to finish a book—I know I can do that; my goals are now to make each book better, to try something new, to expand my writing muscles.

Q: What is your biggest challenge as an established writer?

Finding time to write coupled with finding time to promote my books. In this day and age where so many books compete in the marketplace, it's a challenge to not only find what makes your book stand out, but finding time to implement publicity while writing another book under contract. It's truly the stuff nightmares are made of!

Q: What do you wish you knew when you started on the writing journey?

How each step in the journey comes with its own joys and disappointments. When I started out I was under the (mistaken) impression that once I sold my first book, all my worries and troubles would be over. Becoming a published author was a dream come true, but it also came with lots of difficulties and it's taken me about eight years (since the publication of my first book) to learn how to deal with it all!

Q: What would you like to talk about to the Atlanta Writers Club?

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

My perspectives on the craft and business of writing women's fiction.



Melinda Long, our 3:00 pm speaker, is a teacher and the author of several children's picture books. Melinda Long has a love for pirates that reaches back into her childhood, when she would bury treasure in her backyard, much to her parents' dismay. Tapping that interest as an adult, her book *How I Became a Pirate* became a *New York Times* bestseller, and she has followed it up with more adventures of Jeremy Jacob and the peg-legged Captain Braid Beard. Please visit www.melindalongbooks.com.

Q: How does the relationship work between the author of a picture book and the illustrator selected by your publisher? Is it a collaborative process, or do you just hand it off and cross your fingers?

Basically, I do my work, then the illustrator takes it from there. Except for an occasional question from the illustrator, passed along through my editor, there is virtually no communication involved. I have to trust my illustrator and editor to do their part to make the book great. So far I haven't been disappointed.

Q: What are your goals when writing a children's story?

I want the book to be entertaining enough so that parents and children will want to read it over and over. I want humor and read-aloud quality to be major elements. I refuse to try to teach morals in a children's book.

Q: How do children's expectations for a good story differ from those of adults (parents)?

I don't think they differ that much. They both want a good story. Parents want to be able to share a book with kids without being bored. They want to be able to relate to some of the humor on a more sophisticated level. I have to give them something they can giggle about too. Sharing a reading experience is the most important thing, and if they can both enjoy the book, that will happen.

Q: What aspects of writing for children would you like to address to the Atlanta Writers Club?

Patience, persistence, process, and humor.

Speakers at March Meeting



David Fulmer signs after his workshop



Mitchell Graham's book signing



Renee Dodd emphasizes a point



Renee chats with member after an outstanding presentation

From the Tip of My Pen



Fran Stewart

Author, Editor, & Speaker

From the Tip of My Pen - A Writer's
Tip of the Month – April 2008
by Fran Stewart

The First Agreement - Impeccability

“Be impeccable in your word.” This is the first of *The Four Agreements* discussed by Manuel Ruiz in his book by that title. Despite how imaginative our writing is—I, after all write murder mysteries that have a cat who makes comments in italics throughout the books—we still have a responsibility as writers to present a world that is true to its own internal logic. Albert Einstein remarked once that “Knowledge is limited; . . . imagination encircles the world.” The world of imagination that fiction writers inhabit is as varied as the range of writers themselves, yet within that broad scope, we must present a world that makes some sort of ultimate sense to the reader.

Fran Stewart writes quietly from her house beside a creek on the backside of Hog Mountain, Georgia, where she shares her home with a variety of rescued cats.

www.FranStewart.com

Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is a classic in the mixed-up genre of truly imaginative fiction, yet one can follow an absurd sense of logic throughout all of Alice's rambles, as each zany character, from the pontificating caterpillar to the grinning Cheshire Cat, gives Alice a clue about how to function in her own world. The point is, we're willing to follow her from the time she goes down the rabbit hole until she's safely out of it at the end, because Carroll has impeccably adhered to his own sense of *logic*, such as it is.

There are writers who tie up every loose end in a novel. There are those of us who see the ongoing series as the unit of expression, who are willing to leave a few unanswered questions, teasers if you will, from one book to the next. I'm reminded of Sue Grafton, who got all the way to O in her alphabetical mystery series before she revealed anything at all about Kinsey Milhone's first ex-husband. That's fourteen earlier books that say zip, nada, nottink about him, yet, because of the internal logic of the series and the believability of the protagonist, we are willing to accept the long wait, and say *eureka* when we finally find out what had been going on all those years ago in Milhone's life.

Impeccability has to do with more than just the story line, though. It revolves around the craft of the writing itself. Who are we to stand up and ask people to put down good money for our books if our books are less than our best effort? For this very reason, I have a tendency to check out a book by an unfamiliar author from the library first. If I like the writing, if I'm caught up by the story, if the words themselves are well-thought-out and well-put-together, then and only then I buy the book. As an author myself, how well I know the importance of book sales—how else could I buy all that cat food for six hungry felines? I choose to encourage good writing by buying good books. It's as simple as that. Because I ask people to buy my books, I choose to be impeccable about buying the books of other good writers, as well as impeccable about the way I craft my stories. My word is my reputation. My words are my reputation. I choose impeccability.

Jennie Helderman

Jennie Helderman, who seldom speaks with few words, wrote a flash fiction piece that earned a nomination for the 2007 Pushcart Prize. She's co-authored two nonfiction novelty books and is past midway writing a narrative nonfiction book. She currently works for Inc. magazine's 5000 profiles. Previously she wrote features and chaired the editorial board of a 120,000 circulation alumnae magazine.

Jennie is new to Atlanta, an Alabama transplant, formerly many things and now a writer seeking a publisher. She's worked at Pompeii, made the pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago, and rafted the Grand Canyon. A new grand-mom, she likes photography, history, and puzzles. She's still married to her first husband, a retired newspaper publisher.

Rudy Griffin

I am a native Atlantan, growing up in Chamblee, and later a graduate of Georgia Tech.

For the last fifteen years I have been a self-employed travel agent specializing in vacation rentals in Mexico and have been married 36 years.

I have been writing off and on for ten years, finally arranging my business to allow me to write more than in the early years. My writing interest is in mainstream suspense.

I am not published but I do have a finished manuscript.

My goal is to become a successful author and phase out of the travel business. Joining AWC is one step to becoming immersed in the profession of writing.

Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

The Atlanta Writers Club is a group of writers that work together to help each other improve their skills and attain their writing goals. Anyone 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 29th (But sorry, we are already beyond capacity for this event.) Darnell Arnoult's Creativity Workshop still has openings. 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 improvements.

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 members 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 meetings. Or pay on line at our website, using PayPal at <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.

March Open Mic Readers



Jonathan Grant



Leonard Bock



Rosemary Brittain



Josh Batchelder

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 on their website) 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:

April 3 [Nick Taylor - The Disagreement](#)

April 16 [Alice Hoffman - The Third Angel](#)

April 21 [Elizabeth Strout - Olive Kitteridge](#)

April 24 [Frances Richey - The Warrior: A Mother's Story of a Son at War](#)

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.



Announcing the Atlanta Thriller Book Festival: May 2-4

On May 2, 3 and 4, Eagle Eye Book Shop in Decatur will host Atlanta's first "Thriller Book Fest", a series of author talks & book signings. The opening night on May 2 will be co-hosted by the Atlanta Writers Club and the Georgia Perimeter College Writer's Institute, and will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the C-1100 auditorium on the Dunwoody campus of GPC. Jeff Long will be the keynote speaker. His address will be followed by an auction with donated, signed books from international best-selling authors. 100% of the proceeds from auction will go to the Wind Horse Power charity, which is building and supplying orphanages, schools, and libraries in Tibet. The opening night event is free and open to the public.

On May 3, the public library in Lawrenceville and Eagle Eye Book Shop in Decatur will present free author talks and book signings. More information will follow.

On Sunday May 4, the Atlanta Writers Club and Eagle Eye Book Shop will co-sponsor a luncheon in Roswell with the Thriller Fest authors, including Jeff Long, Ridley Pearson and others to be announced. The luncheon will be held at noon in the Yellow House, 1088A Green St. in Roswell. More information will be forthcoming on the menu, cost, and reservation instructions.

The Atlanta Writers Club Board

President	Marty Aftewicz	eQuill Publisher	Gene Bowen
First VP	George Weinstein		
Membership VP	David McCoy	Other Volunteers	
Treasurer	John Sheffield	Historian/By-Laws	Adrian Drost
Publicity VP	Patricia Patterson	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		
Social Director	Janean Brown		

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

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.

June 21, 2008 —

1:00 PM Annual Club Picnic – dine and mingle with authors who have addressed the club in the past year. We will also use this occasion to honor Terry Kay with a special Atlanta Writers Club award.

Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

Conyers: We are currently searching for someone to organize an all-genre group in this area. Interested parties should contact Marty@atlantawritersclub.org

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 rjacobs@townsquare.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 rjacobs@townsquare.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 rjacobs@townsquare.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 rjacobs@townsquare.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 678-627-9979 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: 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. Email 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 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** 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

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

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 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: ____/____/____