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 —August 16, 2008

12:45 – 1:15 PM Networking: Make new friends and contacts.
1:15 – 1:30 PM Tom Bell will preview the Decatur Book Festival, and Professor Robin David Jenkins of GA Perimeter College will address our members.
1:30 – 1:45 PM Club Business: Preview of Upcoming Events
1:45 – 2:30 PM Natasha Trethewey, Pulitzer Prize winning poet, with a reading and talk about her writing life.
2:30 – 3:00 PM Networking and Book Signing
3:00 – 3:45 PM Karin Slaughter, international best-selling author of mystery and suspense, on using actual settings and social issues to drive your writing.

*Note:* This meeting will be held in Building C in the small auditorium, which will be our new regular meeting location. Also, this meeting will be videotaped by Georgia Perimeter College for later distribution.

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Passion for Words by Marty Aftewicz, President

August, 2008 – This is the Big One

The Atlanta Writers Club has experienced 1,128 months since we first gathered in 1914. But I hereby proclaim that August 2008 is our most significant month of activity over all of those ninety-four years. Does that seem unbelievable?

Well, we very proudly are hosting the first-ever AWC Youth Writing Camp on August 4th and 5th, with the encouragement and support of our friends at Georgia Perimeter College, and the administration, dedication, and creativity of members Lisa Heidle and Emily Lupita Plum. We’ve listened to proposals for years that our organization should be more helpful with students, and this free workshop is a major step in that direction.

We then visit Dahlonega as a warm-up before the Decatur Book Festival. This year, Dahlonega hosts their Literary Festival on August 8-10 and features many authors who have become cherished friends of our club. Karen Abbott, Jackie Cooper, Mitchell Graham, Patti Callahan Henry, Joshilyn Jackson, Jackie Miles, Walter Sorrells, Patricia Sprinkle, Karen White, and Dana Wildsmith – all have addressed the AWC or are scheduled in the near future. The AWC will have a booth at this year’s event, so come up GA 400 and find gold in them thar books.

Then, our monthly meeting (please note we’ve moved to Building C, just across the sidewalk from our former location) features two authors who each alone could fill up our auditorium. Natasha Trethewey has more awards for her poetry than I have hits from Google on my name. Of course, her collection Native Guard won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 2007. And then one of my personal favorites, Karin Slaughter will visit, very close to the start of her world tour for the release of Fractured. I’ve been a fan of Karin’s since her first novel Blindsighted was released in 2001. I treasure every one of her books, and am most pleased that she will address the AWC. I suggest our members come early to this meeting; for the first time ever, I believe seating may be exceeded by the number of attendees.

In addition, this meeting will be kicked off by Tom Bell, one of the driving forces behind the Decatur Book Festival. He’ll provide us with a preview of the DBF, and our club will have a more noticeable presence than in the past. So don’t be late! We will not have our open microphone session in August, but this will return in September.

So coming off that fantastic combo of August speakers at our meeting, the Decatur Book Festival (August 29-31) offers us the area’s largest literary event and the one where our members really get together and have the most fun. On Sunday, August 31, we will host a spin-off from our popular Dinner with the Author events as we will have visiting authors from DBF dine with members at our Brunch with the Author at the Sage Restaurant on the square in Decatur. This is a very unique event, and we are hopeful this will become a regular listing for future years.

Please locate more detailed news about all of these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

So wear your t-shirts proudly. August will be a month that we will fondly recall for quite some time.
AWC Volunteers – Decatur Book Festival

As the Decatur Book Festival quickly approaches, we are once again seeking volunteers to assist in our booth. This is always our biggest event of the year, and the festival typically attracts approximately 60,000 people. Volunteers work two-hour shifts on Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, August 31. Clay Ramsey will be organizing our volunteer shifts so if you are interested, please e-mail Clay at chramse@emory.edu and express your interest. For those writers in the club that would like to advertise their own books, they are able to do so for two hours but are required to work a two-hour shift in the booth in exchange for selling their book at our booth area. Please advise Clay Ramsey of this interest at the time of your query.

We will also have a booth at the Dahlonega Literary Festival, August 9-10. There are more details about this festival elsewhere in this newsletter. But we ask that those interested in assisting with our booth in Dahlonega to please contact Marty Aftewicz at Marty@atlantawritersclub.org.

Midtown/Buckhead Critique Group

Deborah Globe Oresegun is seeking participants for the revitalized critique group in this area. Interested members may contact Deborah via e-mail at Deborah@solutionsforlife.com for more details. They plan to meet weekly at Borders on Peachtree Street near Phipps Plaza and Lenox. Initially, the targeted time is Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM, but will depend on the participants input as well. All genres will be accepted until the group creates a stronger identity.

Lawrenceville critique group

has relocated to the First Baptist Church on Crogan on the Square in downtown Lawrenceville. Interested fiction parties should contact Barbara Connor at imayaya@charter.net for more information.

Opening Minds.
Changing Hearts.

Reach thousands of families while helping fund this awareness initiative that promotes community inclusion and acceptance of people who have mental illnesses, addictions, or developmental disabilities by sponsoring the inaugural Book Fair On The Square in Marietta on October 3-4, 2008.

www.bookfaironthesquare.com
Friday, August 8- Sunday, August 10

5th Annual Dahlonega Literary Festival

Literary Festival will be in August this year starting August 8 through the 10th. We are excited to have Steve Berry as one of our headliners, making a rare public appearance! Sharing the stage with Steve as headliners are Karen Abbott, Patti Callahan Henry and Joshilyn Jackson!

The 2008 Dahlonega Literary Festival will also feature Mitchell Graham, Dana Wildsmith, Lenore Hart, William Rawlings, John Mark Eberhart, Mark Braught and Laura Knorr Braught, Jackie Cooper, Cathy Kaemmerlen, Walter Sorrells, Karen White and the Dixie Divas: Julie Cannon, Jackie Miles and Patricia Sprinkle.

The Atlanta Writers Club will also have a booth at this festival, and is currently seeking volunteers. Please contact Marty Aftewicz at Marty@atlantawritersclub.org if you are interested in working the booth either day of the event.

Presented by the Dahlonega Arts Council, Inc.

Ginger Collins’ story "First Sight" took second place in Writer Advice's Third Annual Flash Prose Contest. The judges called it a wise story about being careful what you wish for. It will appear on the Writer Advice website, http://www.writeradvice.com

Congratulations, Ginger. All her AWC friends look forward to seeing her at this year’s Decatur Book Festival. Rumor says she is stopping by the AWC booth to help us snag our 500th member!

Member Julius Thompson was recently interviewed on the radio. Congratulations, Julius. Those interested may listen to the interview at: http://www.jtwrites.com/id17.html
August Speaker Profiles by George Weinstein, Program Chair & 1st VP

Folks, you can’t find a better lineup of authors anywhere. On Saturday, August 16 meeting at 1:00 p.m., we’ll celebrate our new location on the Georgia Perimeter College-Dunwoody campus—the C-1100 auditorium in Building NC—with our best meeting ever. It’s a good thing the room seats so many! Please arrive promptly so you don’t miss either of these world-renowned authors:

Natasha Trethewey

Natasha Trethewey is author of *Native Guard*, for which she won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for poetry, *Belloq’s Ophelia*, which was named a Notable Book for 2003 by the American Library Association, and *Domestic Work*, which won the inaugural Cave Canem Poetry Prize for the best first book by an African American poet, the 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry. Her poems have appeared in such journals and anthologies as *American Poetry Review, Kenyon Review*, and *The Best American Poetry 2000 and 2003*. Currently, she is Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry at Emory University. In her introduction to *Domestic Work*, Rita Dove wrote, "Trethewey eschews the Polaroid instant, choosing to render the unsuspecting yearnings and tremulous hopes that accompany our most private thoughts—reclaiming for us that interior life where the true self flourishes and to which we return, in solitary reverie, for strength." Natasha Trethewey will address the club with a reading and insights from her writing life, from 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm, with a book signing to follow.

Karin Slaughter

Karin Slaughter is a #1 international best-selling thriller writer whose work is published in 25 languages, with over 13 million books in print worldwide and heading toward 16 million by the end of this year. She regularly debuts in the top five bestseller spots internationally as well as consistently debuting in the #1 slot in the U.K. Slaughter (her real name; not a pseudonym) was born in Georgia, and, with the exception of traveling to support her book publications domestically and abroad, always returns home to Atlanta. She has two best-selling series of thrillers to her credit: the Grant County series (*Blindsighted, Kisscut, A Faint Cold Fear, Faithless, Beyond Reach*, and *Genesis in 2009*) and the Will Trent series, which includes *Triptych* and her new novel *Fractured*. She has also edited and contributed to the thriller-chiller anthology *Like a Charm*. You can read more about the author and her work at [www.karinslaughter.com](http://www.karinslaughter.com). Karin Slaughter will talk about using actual settings and social issues to drive your writing, from 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm, with a book signing to follow. She will also appear that evening at Eagle Eye Book Shop in Decatur. Eagle Eye manages all book sales and signings for the Atlanta Writers Club, so please show your support!
2nd Annual Chattahoochee Valley Writers’ Conference Announced

COLUMBUS, GA—Plans have been finalized for the 2nd Annual Chattahoochee Valley Writers’ Conference (CVWC), which will be held Saturday-Sunday, September 27-28, 2008, at the Columbus Public Library, 3000 Macon Road. A kick-off get-together of faculty, participants, and CVWC steering committee members will be held on Friday, September 26, 2008 at the Columbus Museum. This conference is sponsored by the CVWC Steering Committee, along with the Columbus State University, the Columbus Public Library and the Muscogee County Friends of Libraries. Details and registration are located at the CVWC website at www.chattwriters.org.

New to this year’s conference is a general writing contest open to all individuals, locally and nationally. Contest categories are: (1) Fiction; (2) Non-fiction/Essay; and (3) Poetry. Monetary prizes will be awarded. A $15.00 entry fee for each submission is required; there is no limit to the number of entries one may submit. Contest guidelines can be found at (http://www.chattwriters.org/CVWCContests.htm).

Early registrants receive a discount. For those who register by August 31, 2008, the two-day conference fee is $60. To attend one day only (either Saturday or Sunday), the fee is $45. On September 1, 2008 or after, fees increase to $80 for both days and to $60 for either Saturday or Sunday. For additional information, or to register, visit the conference CVWC website at http://www.chattwriters.org or call John Frandsen, Conference Coordinator (334-821-2036) or Linda Ames (706-323-4014) or email chattwriter@charter.net.

Jim Nelson
The Rev. Dr. Jim Nelson, an ordained United Methodist pastor, is the editor of the Wesleyan Christian Advocate, the newspaper for United Methodist throughout Georgia.

In addition to writing for the Advocate, Nelson has had articles, fiction and non-fiction, published in a number of magazines and newspapers. His first book, titled Where Would Jesus Put the Sidewalks? A Study of Faith and Politics was published in 2004.

In 2006, Nelson ran for the US Congress from the 1st District of Georgia.

He has a BA in Speech/Theatre, an MA in History/Political Science, a Masters of Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry in the area of Ethics.

He is interested in both non-fiction and fiction writing, and in learning more about the publishing industry.

Jonathan Maxwell
Hello, my name is Jonathan Maxwell, and I am a new member of the Atlanta Writers’ Club. I have a Bachelor of Art’s degree from Berry College, where I studied English. While there, I wrote for both the campus newspaper and the yearbook.

Currently, I am a freelance writer and editor. I have just completed my first book, Murderous Intellectuals: German Elites and the Nazi SS. A 300-page analysis of Nazi leaders within the Third Reich, it is scheduled to be published in May 2009 (Publisher: American Book Publishing). In addition, I am working on a new manuscript. Called Piltdown Man and Other Hoaxes, it is intended to be a breezy, lighthearted examination of various scientific frauds through history.
Atlanta Writers Club - Youth Creative Writing Camp

- The AWC Youth Creative Writing Camp is designed to encourage young people (ages 11-16) in the world of writing.
- The camp will focus on fiction: short stories, novels and science fiction; poetry and illustrations; and graphic novels.
- Guest speakers will discuss their writing experience, share their work and lead the participants in writing exercises.
- Camp attendees will participate in peer-response circles to promote collective brainstorming and engaging discussion.
- A list of contests and publications for young people will be given to attendees with instruction on how to prepare a submission.
- The camp will conclude with an open reading and awards ceremony.

The workshop is FREE but space is limited to 30 attendees.
To Reserve a Space, email Lisa Heidle at lheidle@yahoo.com

Writing Camp Facilitators & Presenters

Lisa Heidle has taught reading, writing and language skills for ten years and has published short stories and book reviews for numerous on-line sources including Pine Magazine, Rebecca's Reads and the Atlanta Writers Club. Her story, Nothing But Trash, was chosen by Scratch, an on-line literary contest, as the April 2008 winner and will be included in the annual anthology. She writes a literary based blog at http://moderndayscribe.wordpress.com

Emily Lupita Plum is an award-winning writer specializing in the natural environment and in identity and place. She received her MFA in Creative Writing and Environment from Iowa State University and BA from Central College. Her awards include the Faulkner-Wisdom Gold Medal for the Poem; the John Allen Writing Award; the Lepke Endowed Graduate Award; the Pearl Hogrefe Recognition Award for Creative Writing and a Research Excellence Award from the Graduate College of Iowa State University. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in publications including the North American Review, Double Dealer Redux, International Poetry Review, Poetry International, Lyrical Iowa, StringTown, Sketch and...
in the anthology Poetic Voices Without Borders 2. Emily’s first book of poems, Water and Stone, was published in a bilingual edition (Japanese/English) by Koumyakusya Press, Japan, 2004. Emily has lived in many places including rural Iowa, Grand Isle, Mexico, Spain, Wales and Japan, and is currently a full-time writer and artist in Atlanta, Georgia. http://www.emilyplum.com

Marty Aftewicz, as the current president of The Atlanta Writers Club, is very aware of the trends in the literary community in the Metropolitan area. When he is not coordinating or attending a writing event, he is the host of Mortgage Interest With Marty on America’s Web Radio. He also has magazine articles and short story publishing credits. http://atlantawritersclub.org

George Weinstein is the author of JAKE AND THE TIGER FLIGHT and has additional publishing credits in Atlanta-area newspapers, regional anthologies, and the nationally published A Cup of Comfort for Writers. He was the two-term president of the Atlanta Writers Club http://atlantawritersclub.org and now serves as the club VP and program chair, recruiting speakers for meetings and workshops.

**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/
Sunday Brunch with the Decatur Book Festival Authors

Join the Atlanta Writers Club on August 31 at 11:00 a.m. at Sage Restaurant, located in the midst of the festival activities (121 Sycamore Street), for brunch with the authors appearing at the Decatur Book Festival. You’ll have a chance to dine with an all-star lineup, including:

Karen Abbott, Roy Blount, Jr., Da Chen, David Fulmer, Hollis Gillespie, Jack Riggs, Lee Smith, Laurel Snyder

And we’ll continue to sign up more top names

The owner of Sage is opening up the restaurant early on August 31 just for you. We’ll have the whole restaurant to ourselves. Besides enjoying the company of these personable writers in a tranquil atmosphere, you’ll savor a special three-course menu selected by the chef especially for this event. The entree includes your choice of Sage’s Benedict mignon, mascarpone-stuffed French toast, or their delicious blackened tilapia.

In addition to dining with you, our guest authors will be happy to autograph their books for you and pose for pictures. Don’t miss this opportunity to meet and trade stories with your favorite writers!

The cost is $40 for Atlanta Writers Club members and $45 for non-members (price includes a complementary membership in the club through the end of 2008).

To register, please RSVP to Atlanta Writers Club VP George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com. He will provide payment instructions and answer any questions you have about the event.
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 congratulates our winners of the Spring 2009 Writing Contest:

POETRY

1. "My Road, My Rocks, My Race"
Nichole Chang

2. "Differential"
Emily Lupita Plum

3. "Just Yesterday"
Jef Blocker

RELIGIOUS/ SPIRITUAL/SELF HELP

1. A Tale of Two Biddies
Kathleen Gizzi

2. How I Found My Rhythm in Retirement
Rosemary Brittain

3. The Visitation
Jill Jennings

SHORT STORY

1. Wrap My Legs Around You
Jef Blocker

2. I Remember
Lisa Heidle

3. The Last Words
Preeti Misra

ARTICLE

1. I Should Have Asked for the 911 Turbo
Linda Sands

2. An Uplifting Experience
Kathleen Gizzi

3. This Light Won't Be Dimmed
Rosemary Brittain

We thank our judges, all participants, and Tara Coyt for administration of our contest.
Moonlight & Magnolias Conference

Don't miss Georgia Romance Writers' 2008 Moonlight & Magnolias Conference. Register now and attend one of the largest chapter conferences in the US! For more information visit
http://www.georgiaromancewriters.org/MMConf/2008/MM08Home.php

Just look at this spectacular lineup!

KEYNOTE: NYT bestselling author TERESA MEDIEROS
FEATURED GRW AUTHOR: Award-winning Tanya Michna (aka Tanya Michaels)
SPECIAL SPEAKER: Margie Lawson

EDITORS AND AGENTS:
Jennifer Schober, Spencerhill Associates
Michelle Grajkowski, 3 Seas Literary Agency
Pattie Steele-Perkins, Steele-Perkins Literary Agency
Miriam Kriss, Irene Goodman Literary Agency
Abby Zidle, Sr. Editor, Pocket
Heather Osborn, Editor, Tor/Forge
Wanda Ottewell, Sr. Editor, Harlequin Superromance
Diana Ventimiglia, Assoc. Editor, Silhouette Desire

SPECIAL FEATURES INCLUDE:
Friday morning pitch workshop, Bookseller/Librarian Koffee Klatch, Literacy Book Fair and Autographing, Cold Reads by Editors & Agents, PRO-sponsored late night workshop, and a dessert party with dancing to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the prestigious Maggie Awards Ceremony.

Go to our website (www.georgiaromancewriters.org) for online PayPal registration and all the details. Early registration is $190, and the room rate is an incredible $75 per night. We hope to see you in October.
ANNOUNCING: THE ATLANTA WRITERS CONFERENCE PREP WORKSHOPS

As many of you know, we hosted our first-ever conference with literary agents in May and it went very well, but the agents remarked afterward that a number of registrants would have benefited from a preparatory workshop or two to polish their manuscripts and pitches. We want as many of you as possible to land contracts with agents and secure book deals with publishers. Thus, to prepare you for our 2009 Atlanta Writers Conference, we are providing the opportunity to submit your work and give your pitches to fiction and nonfiction authors who have succeeded in this difficult business. Their mission is to help you make your manuscript sample and/or your "pitch" presentation to the agents as solid and professional as possible.

OVERVIEW:

The preparatory workshops are structured the same way the agent conference is set up: you can submit the first 20 pages of your manuscript for critique in advance, and, on the day of the prep workshop, the author you chose will give you 15 minutes of verbal feedback about your work. We’ll break for lunch and then you can practice explaining (“pitching”) your project to the same author or a different one and you will receive advice about better structuring your pitch for use in query letters and face-to-face encounters with agents and publishers, a process lasting for 10 minutes.

To check on your progress implementing the author’s suggestions, you can receive another critique and/or pitch session with the author of your choice in early 2009 so you and the author can evaluate your progress and continue to smooth the rough edges. If you’re not ready for the Fall 2008 Prep Workshop, you can meet with the author of your choice for the first time in early 2009. These two sessions should give you the recommendations you need to make your work shine when it’s time to register for the agent conference in 2009. Be sure to register ASAP—spots for both workshops will fill up quickly. Here are the details:

PARTICIPATING FICTION AUTHORS:

David Fulmer—Author of five award-winning historical mysteries, most recently the critically acclaimed The Blue Door; writing instructor at Margaret Mitchell House; and best friend of the Atlanta Writers Club. David will critique mainstream fiction, mysteries, thrillers, and suspense.

Haywood Smith—Author of eight novels encompassing historical fiction and women’s fiction, including the best-selling Red Hat Club series and her latest novel Wedding Belles. Haywood will critique all genres of popular fiction EXCEPT occult (vampires, etc.), casual sex, and erotica.

PARTICIPATING NONFICTION AUTHORS:

Constance Curry—Acclaimed historian, memoirist (The Lost Years: Surviving a Mother and Daughter's Worst Nightmare), and essayist who has authored a number of books about the Civil Rights movement, most recently The Wrong Side of Murder Creek: A White Southerner in the Freedom Movement. Connie will critique any nonfiction EXCEPT work with pornographic content.

Jedwin Smith—Author of the award-winning nonfiction books Fatal Treasure and Our Brother’s Keeper, which Publishers Weekly called a “muscularly written, starkly honest memoir.” Jedwin will critique any nonfiction works (memoir, history, military, self-help, etc.) EXCEPT work with pornographic content.

If demand dictates, we will try to add other authors to these workshops.

REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR FALL 2008 PREP WORKSHOP & CRITICAL DATES:

- Registration is NOW OPEN and will continue until each author has filled the 10 spaces allotted for critique sessions and 12 spaces for pitching. Standby lists for each author will be created as necessary.
- For the Fall 2008 Prep Workshop, your 20-page manuscript sample for critique is due by September 20.
- For those wanting to pitch their projects, you will be encouraged to practice your pitches at the club meetings, either before or afterward, with others who have registered for that event.
- The Fall 2008 Prep Workshop will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with 90 minutes for lunch, at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody.

REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR WINTER 2009 PREP WORKSHOP & CRITICAL DATES:

- Registration is NOW OPEN and will continue until each author has filled the 10 spaces allotted for critique sessions and 12 spaces for pitching. Standby lists for each author will be created as necessary.
- For the Winter 2009 Prep Workshop, your 20-page manuscript sample for critique (either reworked using the author's Fall Workshop feedback or a new piece if you didn't attend the Fall Workshop) is due by December 20.

- For those wanting to pitch their projects, you will be encouraged to practice your pitches at the club meetings, either before or afterward, with others who have registered for that event.

- The Winter Prep Workshop will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with 90 minutes for lunch, at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody.

**COST:**

You must be a member of the Atlanta Writers Club to participate in these workshops. If you are not, add $35 to the costs below to cover your membership for the remainder of 2008 through the end of 2009.

For the Fall 2008 Prep Workshop, the cost is $100 for a critique and $30 for a pitch. If you choose to do both, we'll discount the total cost to $125.

For the Winter 2009 Prep Workshop, if you signed up for the Fall Workshop too, the cost for reevaluation is $75 for a critique and $25 for a pitch. If you choose to do both, we'll discount the total cost to $95.

If you didn't sign up for the Fall Workshop but want to participate in the Winter Workshop, or you participated in the Fall Workshop but want a different work evaluated this time, the cost is $100 for a critique and $30 for a pitch. If you choose to do both, we'll discount the total cost to $125.

**TO REGISTER:**

RSVP to Atlanta Writers Club VP George Weinstein at giweinstein@yahoo.com to tell him:

1. Which author you want
2. Which workshop you want: Fall or Winter or both
3. Which session you want: critique or pitch or both

You will receive his reply about whether a seat still is available with that author for the sessions you desire. If a seat is not available, you'll have the option of switching authors or going on the standby list for your first choice.

George also will reply with payment instructions and the deadline for payments. Once he receives your payment, he will provide a reminder about the due date for your 20-page manuscript and submission instructions if you chose that option, and/or he will connect you with those who are pitching their projects so you can help each other practice.

If you RSVP but do not submit payment by the deadline, you will be dropped from the roster and the next available person on standby who has paid will take your place.

**REFUND POLICY:**

For the Fall 2008 Prep Workshop, if you paid for a critique but cannot make it to the October 25 event, you will receive a refund if you notify George Weinstein at giweinstein@yahoo.com no later than September 13. If you paid for a pitch but cannot make it to the October 25 event, you will receive a refund if you notify George at giweinstein@yahoo.com no later than October 18.

For the Winter 2009 Prep Workshop, if you paid for a critique but cannot make it to the January 24 event, you will receive a refund if you notify George Weinstein at giweinstein@yahoo.com no later than December 13. If you paid for a pitch but cannot make it to the January 24 event, you will receive a refund if you notify George at giweinstein@yahoo.com no later than January 17.

***

We hope you take advantage of these Fall 2008 and Winter 2009 Prep Workshops. They should help you present your best work at the Atlanta Writers Conference in May 2009. (Conference information and the opening date for Conference registrations will be announced in February 2009.) If you have any questions, please direct them to George Weinstein at giweinstein@yahoo.com

Marty
Skunks and Stinky Feet

Okay, so maybe I should have put roses in the title, but really, don’t you think those are a bit overworked in the odor category? Smell is one of the least-addressed senses in our lexicon. English—and if you’ve been reading this column with any sort of regularity, you know how much I love this language—simply falls short when it comes to smelly stuff.

Think about it. What word is there to describe fresh doughnuts? How would you sum up the scent of your own blood when you cut your finger? Did you ever think about the smell of a new car? Plenty of money goes into making sure that new cars (and some used ones, as well) smell new, and we all know what that scent is—can’t you call it to mind right now?—but how would you describe it?

When faced with the dearth of words that epitomize smell, we generally resort to simile or metaphor. This works, as long as we don’t overdo it. Plowing through a sea of similes is like swimming in a school of goldfish—the tickling gets to you after a while. So, here’s your challenge, if you choose to accept it. Describe the following smells using a simile or a metaphor for each one. Then try it without a single simile or metaphor. See? We don’t have words for smells, other than the usual tired ones, such as fresh or pungent or aromatic (whatever that means).

Newly cut grass, stinky feet on a sweaty four-year-old, the first fish you ever caught. What about a soft old queen-sized sheet straight out of the dryer, your own forearm (go ahead—smell it!), furniture polish, or that herbal pain relief rub you used this morning. Have you ever smelled three-day-old roadkill, or fresh horse manure? Use words to paint the air just before a rainstorm, and the air right after a rainstorm.

On the other hand, why do we have to describe the smells? Go back over that list. With the possible exception of the feet and the roadkill, you probably already know what each item smells like. Your readers will, too. Someone who lifts the sheets out of the dryer and buries her nose in them is probably a happy character. Someone who pulls out the sheets, collapses into a heap and buries her nose in them is most likely in need of comfort, a need that most of us can identify with.

Explore the world of smells. Use them to pepper your writing (sparsely). A tasty dish indeed.

Indigo as an Iris, the fifth book in Fran Stewart’s Biscuit McKee Mystery Series will be released October 1, 2008. Find out more at www.franstewart.com.
Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

Our annual **early-bird membership drive** starts at our August 16th meeting, so please prepare to renew for 2009 now, and save $5.00. Also, we will introduce our family membership, where each additional family members can join for $20 and earn full membership benefits. So please bring you checkbooks on August 16 or to the Decatur Book Festival. We are one of the best literary bargains in town. 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.

Anyone can join, with no prior publication requirements. 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 membership provides access to outstanding writing workshops, and some are free with membership. Watch for announcements for upcoming workshops.
- **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 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](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html).

If you have additional questions, contact AWC president Marty Aftewicz at [Marty@atlantawritersclub.org](mailto:Marty@atlantawritersclub.org) or our Membership Vice President David McCoy at [David@atlantawritersclub.org](mailto:David@atlantawritersclub.org).

**Marietta Group** of the Atlanta Writer's Club is suspending until Fall- September 2008. We will resume at The Daily Grind, Across the street from Sprayberry High School on the 3rd Monday of September, the usual time 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
We now have upgraded our relationship with the Margaret Mitchell House (www.gwtw.org), so all AWC members are accepted as members of MMH for event considerations. This translates to substantial discounts for author events hosted by their Center for Southern Literature. We hope that many or our members will take advantage of this opportunity. When registering or submitting an RSVP, please mention your membership with The Atlanta Writers Club.

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:

August 14
Jay Hakes

August 22
Midtown Mixer – The Sundogs

August 29-30
The Decatur Book Festival

The Atlanta Writers Club meets each month, a mile north of I-285 (northern arc) in the small auditorium of Building C 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.

For GPC’s street and campus maps, click: http://www.gpc.edu/Campus_Maps/Dunwoody.html
The Atlanta Writers Club Board

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Upcoming Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings

August 16, 2008
1:45-2:30 Natasha Trethewey, Pulitzer Prize winner, with a reading and a talk about her writing life.
3:00-3:45 Karin Slaughter, international best-selling author of mystery & suspense, on using actual settings and social issues to drive your writing.

September 20, 2008
1:45-2:30 Gregg Loomis, author of four thrillers, on overcoming the flaws and biases of the publishing industry.
3:00-3:45 Doug Crandell, author of two humorous mainstream novels, on how to start a writing project and maintain your creative momentum.

October 18, 2008
1:45-2:30 Dr. David Bottoms, Poet Laureate of Georgia an UGA professor, reading his work and answering questions about the craft of poetry and its publication.
3:00-3:45 Dr. William Rawlings Jr., successful mystery writer and full-time physician, on how to find time to write even if you spend 16 hours a day saving lives.
Club-Sponsored Critique Groups

Conyers: An all-genre group meets Sundays, 6-8 pm at Bernie Blanton’s home. E-mail Ms. Blanton at brblanton@earthlink.net or call her at 770-602-1567 to get on her distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Decatur: A fiction group (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@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 rjacobs@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 rjacobs@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 rjacobs@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 First Baptist Church on E Crogan on the Square in downtown Lawrenceville. 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 ksclmanski@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 Janee 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 - Deborah Globe Oresegun is directing a new group to meet at Borders near Phipps Plaza. This is an all genre group and interested participants should contact Deborah at Deborah@soulutionsforlife.com

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 giweinstein@yahoo.com or call him at 770-552-5887 to get on his distribution list and find out the date of the next meeting.

Sandy Springs: An all-genre group meets on Mondays, 10:30 am - 12:30 at the Roswell Library. E-mail Lynn Wesch at lew-esch@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, 6-8 pm. 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: Poetry Group – Meets on the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM at the Atlanta Bread Company on Highway 92/Crossville Rd at Woodstock Rd. intersection (Kohl’s shopping center). Interested members should contact Jill Jennings at magistra_jennings@yahoo.com or call her at 770-516-2482.
THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB

Membership Dues, Donations and Information Update

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

ANNUAL AWC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE • DISCOUNT OFFER ENDS OCTOBER 18

2009 Membership Dues $35
(also covers remainder of 2008 for new members): Valid through 12/31/2009

Add any family member for $20
Please supply their contact info using the form below or on a separate form.

Student membership $30
Ages 25 and under

Make a donation to the AWC of specified amount-

Total

• Please mail with checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club to: John Sheffield, 1070 Rome Drive, Roswell, GA 30075
• 2009 Membership Year runs from payment date through 12/31/09
• If you are renewing, please indicate only your name below unless other contact info has changed

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

Name_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address____________________________________________________ City & Zip ______________________________

Home Work/Cell

Phone__________________________ Phone__________________________

E-mail address________________________________________________________________________________________________________

I joined at this event:_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Tell us about yourself:

Please circle your primary interests fiction nonfiction poetry freelancing

Have you published? Yes No

How long you have been writing? less than 5 years 5 or more years

Would you like to join a local critique group? Yes No

Date: _____/____/____