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 —Sept.20.08**

- 12:45 – 1:15 PM *Networking*: Make new friends and contacts.
- 1:15 – 1:30PM *Open Microphone* - Opportunity to read 2 minutes of your work before an audience.
- 1:30 – 1:45 PM *Club Business*: Preview of Upcoming Events
- 1:45 – 2:30 PM Gregg Loomis, author of four thrillers, on overcoming the flaws and biases of the publishing industry.
- 2:30 – 3:00 PM *Networking and Book Signing*
- 3:00 – 3:45 PM Doug Crandell, author of two humorous mainstream novels, on how to start a writing project and maintain your creative momentum.

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

**Book Fair on the Square**

**Accolades**

**Author 101 university**

**Workshop and Signing by Chris Roerden**

**Chattahoochee Valley Writers Conference**

**Member Profiles**

**2nd Annual Gwinnett Reading Festival & Youth Creative Writing Awards**

**Photos**

**Team Writing Project & The Big Read**

**August Speakers’ Review** by Shyla Nambiar

**September Speakers** by G. Weinstein, Pro. Chair & 1st VP.

**AWC Spring Contest Winners**

**Moonlight & Magnolias**

**Dahlonega Book Festival pix**

**AWC Writers Conference Prep Workshop**

**From the Tip of My Pen** by Fran Stewart

**Membership Info**

**Margaret Mitchell House**

**Meeting location & Directions**

**Officers & Board + Quarterly Schedule**

**Critique Groups**

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

Tell Us Where To Go

You read that title correctly. This is your chance as a member, or a reader of this column, to release all your pent-up ideas for the club to the board of directors collectively, or me individually. Bring it on.

Actually, I hope your recommendations are constructive ones to benefit the membership versus a personal attack for refusing to accept text messages. You’re welcome to launch the personal criticisms, but likely will see more substantive changes with recommendations for the club.

Over the past few years, George Weinstein started a rebirth of the AWC, and I have continued to work with him since my installment as president. Together with our board of directors we have quite a few accomplishments:

• Significant increase in membership
• Critique groups were formed and continue to multiply
• Profile of speakers at our monthly meetings has been raised significantly
• Many successful writer workshops
• Dine with author events
• 1st Atlanta Writers Conference
• 1st Youth Writing Camp
• Free AWC Picnic
• Free Lending Library and Book Swap
• Joint efforts for events at Margaret Mitchell House and Decatur Book Festival
• Participation in festivals and literary events
• And more

But the purpose of this column is to not boast, but ask for your guidance. Where shall we go from here? The AWC Board of Directors will have a meeting after our club monthly meeting on September 20th. We are very much interested in the events that will please our membership.

So this is your opportunity:

• Tell us what you enjoy the most
• Advise us of what should be deleted or modified.
• Volunteer for a position on our board of directors. Not certain of the time obligation? We have positions of varying levels of involvement and time commitment. Almost anyone can be successful. Look at me. I could barely spell AWC before I was installed as president. Fortunately, the outgoing board of directors counseled me until they knew I could spell it correctly each and every time.
• Should we do more with young writing talent? What and How?
• What more can we do to attract major speakers? Who would you like to have at a future monthly meeting?
• What type of workshops would you prefer in the future?
• We welcome any suggestion or comment.

The emails will remain confidential unless you provide permission to reveal your identity. Please direct your comments to Marty@atlantawritersclub.org and I will confirm receipt when I open.

The Atlanta Writers Club is dedicated to assisting the advancement of each of our members, so your perception and recommendations are important.
Rachel Simon is an award-winning author and nationally known public speaker. She is best known for her critically acclaimed, best-selling memoir *Riding The Bus With My Sister, A True Life Journey* which was adapted for a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie by the same name. Join Rachel as she teaches a creative writing workshop during “Bookfair on the Square”, October 4, 2008 in downtown Marietta.

To learn more about Rachel and the book visit - [www.rachelsimon.com](http://www.rachelsimon.com)

The one hour session for $25.00, includes a copy of Ms. Simon’s book;
Saturday, October 4, 2008 3:00-4:15 pm - Location to be announced.

To register: email dfields@cobbcsb.com, or call (770) 429-5036.
For more information about the fair visit - [www.bookfaironthesquare.com](http://www.bookfaironthesquare.com)
Member Martina Desgouttes has released her first CD: Introducing "Visions and Sounds" CD, a collection of spoken words with music and sounds to inspire and bring healing to the mind, body, and spirit, captivating the listener with passionate vocals and sounds. This recording is a well-laid grouping of praise, worship, prophetic words, and proclamations. This album will invoke the spirit of worship and soothe your spirit with melodious sounds. The collection was written and performed by author & poet, Martina Desgouttes, and inspired by her life's journey and love for the Lord. To sample CD and purchase please visit www.cdbaby.com/cd/martinadesgouttes.


*Water & Stone: A Story in Poetry From Japan by Emily Lupita Plum*
This is indeed a book about love, about hard-earned wisdom, all told in the simplest of words. Here, a haiku called "rain": a raging fire / having consumed all the trees / looks up to the sky. A senryu called "acceptance": big office windows / facing out at the mountain / I start making tea. Plum's poems are deceptively simple, sounding at times like Zen truisms, which then turn out to ripple and resonate, layers of sense layered densely on layers, love affair of water and stone, flow and rest, Japan and "America." *Water & Stone* is available on Emily's website: [http://www.emilyplum.com](http://www.emilyplum.com)

Joe Christensen recently had a short story "Raphael's Rain" accepted for publication in Fear and Trembling magazine and his poem "The Jesus Action Figure" was published by The Beat.
AUTHOR 101 UNIVERSITY

Many of you are familiar with the Author 101 series, and certainly fellow member and successful author Robyn Freedman Spizman. She has organized this two day writing seminar in Atlanta at The Renaissance Waverly Hotel.

Registration has just opened for AUTHOR 101 UNIVERSITY, held October 1-2, 2008 in Atlanta just prior to the Big Seminar. This will be an action packed two-day program this time and we’re excited about what’s in store for you if you sign up. The last event in Los Angeles was a tremendous success, and this event is expected to sell out. (check out the testimonials from several more than satisfied attendees on the website...)

The seminar planners have assembled a dynamic group of speakers who want to meet you and share with you what it takes to be a successful author. Program presenters include Mark Victor Hansen, Rick Frishman, David Hancock, Robyn Freedman Spizman, Brendon Burchard, Jill Lublin, Alex Carroll, John Willig and James Malinchak.

The goal is to get you published, to show you how to sell and promote your book after it’s published and to help you leverage it to make your business more profitable! Make sure you bring paper for notes... There'll be lots of great ideas and tactics that you'll want to hold on to and use. This two-day seminar will get you on your way.

The tuition for both days is only $399. Sign up today and take advantage of our money-back guarantee. Seating is very limited. Get all the info here by clicking this link and you’ll go straight to where you need to go: http://www.webmarketingmagic.com/app/?af=824722.

Book Signing & Workshop
with Author and teacher Chris Roerden,
winner of the Agatha Award for Best Non-Fiction Book, “Don’t Murder Your Mystery”.

Learn what you need to do to get your manuscript ready for publication!
5:30-6:00 PM: Book Signing
6:30-9:00: Workshop (includes pizza!)

No charge for admission to book signing and reading
$20 for workshop Please register for the workshop in advance by calling the arts center at 706-629-2599. The location may not be convenient, but is certainly priced to attract one’s attention.
Calhoun Gordon Arts Council
Harris Arts Center
212 South Wall St
P.O. Box 2492
Calhoun, GA 30703-2492
cgarts1@bellsouth.net
Phone (706) 629-2599
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.

My name is Lutrina Booth and I am an aspiring writer. Writing has been a passion of mine as long as I can remember. However, I have only done it for fun. I’ve written a few poems and short stories for friends and family but have never seriously undertaken anything—though prompted to do so. My excuse was that I just didn’t have the time. You know, I have come to realize the “time” to do something for me is never going to simply come. I am never going to have any extra time given to me, so I’ve decided to pursue my dreams by taking a minute at a time.

I have joined the Atlanta Writers Club in an effort to gain the knowledge of properly putting pen to paper in a way that someone other than those closest to me can share in my creativeness. I believe I have a lot to say and a lot more to share. It is my hope that others will feel this way once they “read” me.

Tyce Miller
I’m an Atlanta native and a graduate of the University of Georgia whose primary career for the past ten years has been selling software. However, my true passion lies with writing fiction - specifically fantasy/adventure.

Growing up, much of my time was spent writing for fun. Somewhere along the line, I was sidetracked. A couple of years ago I had a strong desire to begin writing again in earnest, and have recently completed my first novel and am preparing it for submission. My ultimate goal is to become published and write full time.

By joining the Atlanta Writers Club I hope to learn from the experience of the members and become a better writer in the process.
Youth Writing Camp Awards

The Atlanta Writers Club proudly held their first Youth Creative Writing Camp in July. We thank instructors Lisa Heidle, Emily Lupita Plum, Michael Varga, George Weinstein and Marty Aftewicz for their assistance. We also have a special thank you to The Eagle Eye Books, www.eagleeyebooks.com of Decatur for their contribution of gift cards to some of the winners.

2008 Youth Creative Writing Camp Winners:

Best Fiction: Julia Denniss
First Place Fiction: Zoe Adder
Second Place Fiction: Faith McColl

Best Poetry: Imani Scott-Blackwell
First Place Poetry: Haley Todd
Second Place Poetry: Piper Sandes

Best Haiku: Caitlin Brown and Haley Todd
First Place Haiku: Andres Hernandez

Best Dialogue: Ally Miller

Most Imaginative: Annika Nilsson

2nd Annual Gwinnett Reading Festival

Gwinnett readers will have an opportunity to meet authors like Rick Bragg, Carmen Deedy and Steve Martini at the second annual Gwinnett Reading Festival on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The free event takes place at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is being offered by the Gwinnett County Public Library as a way to encourage the love of reading and to promote literacy.

Readers, authors and educational vendors join together in a community-wide celebration of reading for all ages. Activities for children include storytelling, crafts, and a special appearance by Spiderman; activities for teens include Sumo Wrestling, gaming, and artist workshops.

Adults will have the opportunity to meet local, regional, and national authors like Bragg, Deedy and Martini.

Every child that attends will receive a free book.

For more information, visit www.gwinnettpl.org or call 770-978-5154
Youth Writing Camp

Youth Writing camp

Julia Denniss - Best Fiction Story

Imani Scott-Blackwell - Best Poetry

Spring Contest winners

Kathleen Gizzi, Rosemary Brittain, Jef Blocker, Preeti Misra

Emily Lupita Plum and Lisa Heidle

Nichole Chang - Serious Poetry
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

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@soulutionsforlife.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.

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.

Team Writing Project

Thinking of working on a team writing project? Follow this link to an informative article in Scribblepad: http://www.scribblepad.co.uk/working-on-team-writing-projects.html

The Big Read

By Sarah Dollacker

The Literary Center at the Margaret Mitchell House launches its "Gatsby" Big Read at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Decatur Book Festival (DBF), August 29-31, 2008 at a special booth devoted to The Great Gatsby. Everyone – from schools to businesses to individuals – will be invited to sign up to be involved with "Gatsby" Big Read programming. The Lit Center will facilitate Big Read programming from September 08 through June 09; however, February 2009 will be a month of concentrated activities. Look forward to "Fitzgerald in February," a concentrated blitz of "Gatsby" programs and activities that will take place throughout Atlanta that month.

"We are jazzed about our upcoming 'Gatsby' Big Read effort," says Julie Bookman, Director of the Literary Center at the Margaret Mitchell House. "The dominant themes in 'The Great Gatsby' prove as relevant and provocative today as when the book debuted in 1922." These themes include: the decline and disintegration of the American dream in an era of unprecedented prosperity and material excess; the decay of moral values; the psychology of the wealthy; conflict between classes; and the empty pursuit of pleasure. The novel also contemplates the wider issues of greed, love, desire, and hope.

If you visited the Margaret Mitchell House booth during the Decatur Book Festival, then you’ve already received a preview of this year-long program. Watch for more over the next several months at the Margaret Mitchell House web site, www.gwtg.org.
Last Month’s Speakers Review
by Shyla Nambiar

At 1:45, Natasha Trethewey, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, read poems from two of her collections, *Bellocq’s Ophelia* and *Native Guard*, and explained the history of her poems. She discussed the research that she does to compose her poems and using the dictionary to explore meanings of words. Her advice to burgeoning poets was to “fall in love with sentences.”

At 3:00, Karin Slaughter, internationally bestselling author of crime fiction, gave a humorous account of her background and her writing career. She spoke of her use of violence in her novels to talk about the social condition and her use of the Atlanta setting for her new novel *Fractured*. She described her own experiences in the world of publishing and advised writers to “write about what you want to know about.”

Karin Slaughter displays her humor
Natasha Trethewey addresses the members
Karin Slaughter prepares to sign
Largest ever AWC crowd at a regular meeting
Speakers at the September Meeting

By George Weinstein

Gregg Loomis

Gregg Loomis is the author of five international thrillers: Voodoo Fury, The Julian Secret, The Pegasus Secret, Gates of Hades and The Sinai Secret. His settings are always exotic, his riddles and mysteries confound and satisfy, and his characters are compelling. Critics have labeled his work “riveting, dynamic, and action-packed page-turners.”

A former racecar driver both in and out of the United States and a licensed commercial pilot, he has also published articles in FLYING and Scuba Diving magazines. He divides his time between writing and practicing law, specializing in commercial litigation.

Loomis will address the club at 1:45 on September 20 with a discussion on overcoming the flaws and biases of the publishing industry.

Doug Crandell

Doug Crandell is the author of two novels in his planned “Beauty Knows No Pain” trilogy—The Flawless Skin of Ugly People and Hairdos of the Mildly Depressed. Publisher’s Weekly touts Crandell’s work as having “the perverse charms readers of Augusten Burroughs and David Sedaris will recognize.” Crandell is also the master of the memoir, having produced two of those as well: Pig Boy’s Wicked Bird and The All Industrial Motel, about which Publisher’s Weekly opined: “This sad, sharp memoir is graced with humor, hope, a strong sense of place and a winning narrator, making it a fine example of the form.”

In addition, his short stories and essays have been anthologized in book form and appeared in The SUN, Smithsonian Magazine, Indiana Review, and in other journals and magazines. He is also a regular contributor to the highly acclaimed magazine, Glimmer Train.

Crandell will speak at 3 p.m. on September 20 about how to start a writing project and maintain your creative momentum.
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

SHORT STORY
1. Wrap My Legs Around You
   Jef Blocker
2. I Remember
   Lisa Heidle
3. The Last Words
   Preeti Misra

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

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.

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/
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:

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 gjweinstein@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 gjweinstein@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 gjweinstein@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 gjweinstein@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 gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than January 17.

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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 gjweinstein@yahoo.com
From the Tip of My Pen - A Writer’s Tip of the Month – August 2008
by Fran Stewart

Whatdya Wanna Be?

I recently picked up the newspaper and found an article about a sixteen-year-old who was heading off to the State House to do a stint as a legislative page. The article quoted him as saying that he’s always been interested in politics, ever since he ran for class president in fourth grade. He won that election. In Ronald Reagan’s inaugural address, if I remember correctly, he mentioned having run for school offices as well. He lost them.

Now, I don’t know about you, but when I entered fourth grade, politics wasn’t an issue. I’d already read Little Women a dozen or so times. “Are you checking this out again, Frances?” The Air Force base librarian peered at me over the edge of the checkout desk and asked the same question every time I went in there. “Yes, Ma’am,” I assured her. She positively glowed when I finally discovered the Black Stallion series. “We have a lot of these books,” she told me. Then I went on to read each of them at least six times, much to her dismay. For the rest of fourth grade, all I wanted to do was write stories and re-read every book ever written by Walter Farley.

Blessed by a mother who never saved anything except her own salt and pepper collection as we moved from air base to air base, the library was a constant in my life. Who needed to own books when I had shelf after shelf available to me? The point is, fourth grade politicians turn into political adults, I guess. And fourth grade readers turn into—well, into anything they want to.

I admit a bias against people who can’t find time to read a book. The most interesting people I meet generally get around to saying, “I always loved reading."

What does this mean? If you want to be a politician, start off by running for office in grade school. If you want to be anything else of value, read. What a novel idea if all our politicians were well-read. Maybe they could start with the Constitution?

From the Tip of My Pen: a manual for writers
Children’s bilingual book for 4-9 yrs.
As Orange as Marmalade / Tan naranja como Mermelada
www.FranStewart.com

"Healing the World through Teaching the Power of Gratitude"

Fran Stewart writes and reads beside a creek on the back side of Hog Mountain, north of Lawrenceville GA
Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

Our annual early-bird membership savings is now available, so please prepare to renew for 2009 now, and save $5.00. Also, we now have our family memberships, where each additional family member can join for $20 and earn full membership benefits. So please renew now. We will gladly accept your cash or checks at any AWC event in September, or you can mail your payment to the address on the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. You may also renew via PayPal at www.atlantawritersclub.org.

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.

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.
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

Margaret Mitchell House & Museum

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:

September 10 Anne Rivers Siddons
September 16 Charles Martin
September 26 Garrison Keillor @ Atlanta History Center
The Atlanta Writers Club Board

**President** Marty Aftewicz
**First VP** George Weinstein
**Membership VP** David McCoy
**Secretary** Bill Black
**Treasurer** John Sheffield
**Publicity VP** Patricia Patterson
**Operations VP** Clay Ramsey
**Contests VP** Tara Coyt
**Marketing VP** Sarah Dollacker
**Social Director** Janean Brown

**eQuill Publisher** Gene Bowen

**Other Volunteers**
**Historian/By-Laws** Adrian Drost
**Photographer** Gene Bowen
**PR/Open Mic** Patricia Patterson

**eQuill Copy Editor** Gene Bowen

Upcoming Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings

**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., mystery writer and physician, on how to find time to write even if you spend 16 hours a day saving lives.

**November 15, 2008—**
1:45-2:30 Cathy Kaemmerlen, author and performer, on presenting your book and yourself in public.
3:00-3:45 Karen Spears Zacharias, essayist and journalist, on writing nonfiction.

**December 20, 2008—**
1:45-2:30 Jackie Lee Miles, author of three Southern novels, on the five things that make a good story great.
3:00-3:45 Julie L. Cannon, Southern women’s fiction author, on novel writing for anyone who survived childhood.
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 rjacobstownesquare.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 rjacobstownesquare.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 rjacobstownesquare.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 rjacobstownesquare.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 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 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 Katriyle@yahoo.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@solutionsforlife.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, 6-8pm. 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: 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-

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- 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: _____/_____/____