



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.

ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB

Dec/2008

e Quill

Agenda for —Dec 20, 2008

- 1:00 – 1:15 PM Networking
- 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 *Jackie Lee Miles and Julie L. Cannon*, both well known and successful Southern fiction authors, will conduct a panel discussion on the elements that make a great story.
- 2:30 – 3:00 PM *Networking and Book Signing*
- 3:00 – 3:45 PM Children’s book author *Laurel Snyder* will discuss the craft and business of writing children’s books.
- 3:45 – until conclusion – *Networking and Book Signing*

Note: The December meeting will be held at the Dunwoody Library, 5339 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road Dunwoody, GA 30338

The library is located at the intersection of Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd and Womack Rd.

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Passion for Words by Marty Aftewicz, President

Small Miracles and Special Thanks

If you had told me two years ago that The Atlanta Writers Club would become one of the most highly regarded literary organizations in the southeast, I would have scoffed at such a suggestion. But we have risen, and we have many to thank for this recognition. So, since I have been told that tradition exists at this time of year to publicly proclaim appreciation for special efforts, here I go. Please join me in thanking:

Everyone that helped make our first Atlanta Writers Conference a success, especially Marc Fitten and Anne Francomano. Our picnic volunteers who helped prepare, set-up, serve, and clean-up, including John Turman, Ben Roberson, Susan Hall, Jill Fink, and Janean Brown.

An incredibly long list of our Decatur Book Festival volunteers, highlighted by the super efforts of Cindy Ellsberry and Jill Fink at the Emerging Writers Tent, plus: Fran Stewart, Suzanne Smith, Michael Faulkner, Ian Ferguson, Jenny Evans, John Turman, Walter Lawrence, Sandie Webb, Julius Thompson, Parul Hinzen, Kathleen Hamilton Allen, Reginald Beal, Layla Lusty, Mary Frances, Cheryl Mills, Sherri Caldwell, Lee Passarella, Barbara Conner, Ray Atkins, Janean Brown, Lisa Warde, Lynn Hesse, Melissa Lanctot, Lucretia Gibbs, Martin Clarke, Lauren Hopkins Karcz, Joan Gleckler, Patricia Patterson, Melissa Roberts, Michael Varga, Love Hudson, Tammie Kelly, Julie Coats, Dan Kelly, and Anika Harris

Lisa Heidle and Emily Lupita Plum for creating and teaching our AWC Youth Workshop, and Michael Varga for his able assistance.

Lynda Fitzgerald and Dee Gardner for starting the AWC Lending Library and Lisa Heidle maintaining it in their absence.

Fran Stewart for her monthly column on writing tips in the EQUILL.

Gene Bowen for many hours as the AWC photographer, and creating the professional newsletter each month without fail.

Shyla Nambiar for her monthly Speaker Summary for our newsletter.

Barbara Conner and Julius Thompson for helping to staff our booth at the Gwinnett Literary Festival

Our AWC Board Members, each with a special contribution:

Tara Coyt for her efforts with our contests twice annually

John Sheffield for financial guidance, and his work on our efforts to become a 501(c) 3.

Clay Ramsey for accepting the task of organizing our volunteers so their work is seamless at every event

David McCoy for organizing and maintaining our membership database

Sarah Dollacker for her creative marketing ideas

Janean Brown for her attempts at creating a more social network among our members

Patricia Patterson for distributing our press releases

Bill Black for assuming his new role as secretary

George Weinstein for exceeding our imagination with the creation of outstanding programs and events.

Every member, who contributes to our continued success with annual dues, and participation in club events.

And since I am certain I have overlooked some important contributors, I apologize for this oversight and include you in my thank you to all anonymous volunteers.

Finally, since this is our final newsletter of 2008, the entire Board of Directors of The Atlanta Writers Club wishes the best of good health and unexpected prosperity to each of our members.

open micers & workshop



(c) Gene Bowen

Doug Crandell instructs in his short story workshop



(c) Gene Bowen

Doug receives a long line of fans



(c) Gene Bowen

Mary Stripling reads poetry from 1964
AWC Anthology



(c) Gene Bowen

Josh Batchelder - open mic



(c) Gene Bowen

Beth Horton at open mic

December Speakers Profiles

by George Weinstein, VP and Program Chair

Some of you have recommended that we feature more panels of speakers, as we'd hosted in past years, so this month we present a panel of Southern women's fiction authors and—just in time for the holidays—a children's book author.

Southern Women's Fiction Panel: What Elements Make a Good Story Great?



Jackie Lee Miles is the author of three novels, *Divorcing Dwayne*, *Cold Rock River*, and *Roseflower Creek*. In a review of the latter, the late William Diehl wrote, "The lyric prose will thrill you, the story is unforgettable, and the characters will stay with you forever." Jackie lectures regularly at book clubs, schools, and writers' workshops. View her website: <http://jlmiles.brinkster.net/>



Julie L. Cannon has written three books thus far in what her publisher Simon & Schuster calls the "Homegrown" series—*Truelove & Homegrown Tomatoes*, *'Mater Biscuit* and *Those Pearly Gates*—as well as *The Romance Readers' Book Club*, about which best-selling author Patti Callahan Henry stated, "Like the perfect Southern recipe, Julie Cannon has mixed the ingredients for a delicious novel filled with love, grace, wit, and a splash of Guilt." Visit her website: www.juliecannon.info



Laurel Snyder

Laurel Snyder is the author of a picture book, *Inside the Slidy Diner*, and a children's novel for Random House, *Up and Down the Scratchy Mountains OR The Search for a Suitable Princess*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a former Michener-Engle Fellow, Laurel also has written two books of poems—*Daphne & Jim: a choose-your-own-adventure biography in verse* and *The Myth of the Simple Machines*— (No Tell Books, 2007). She also edited an anthology of nonfiction, *Half/Life: Jew-ish tales from Interfaith Homes*. Laurel has published work in the *Utne Reader*, *the Chicago Sun-Times*, *the Revealer*, *Salon.com*, *The Iowa Review*, *American Letters*, *Commentary*, and elsewhere. She is an occasional commentator for NPR's "All Things Considered." She will discuss the craft and business of writing children's books. Read more about her books at <http://laurelsnyder.com/>

Faith McColl

One of the young writers that attended our writing conference last summer is one of Jerry's kids, since her Mitochondrial Disease is covered by the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The MDA saw Faith's poem "Thanksgiving Ponderings" and loved it. They called and asked us if it could be used on an MDA flier to be passed out to all the fire department chiefs in Marietta as well as all the Kroger branch managers in Marietta. The poem will apparently be delivered with a pumpkin pie. These fliers will be used in preparation for the MDA Fire Department Boot Fundraiser and the MDA Kroger Shamrock Fundraiser. The MDA has asked Faith if she could write a holiday poem, Valentine's poem and St. Patrick's Day poem to use at other fundraising events.

We are very proud to have been a small part of her literary education.
www.faith4faith.org

.A free review of publishing contracts is available to members of the Authors Guild. Visit www.authorsguild.org. Membership is \$90/yr, a lot cheaper than hiring a lawyer...

Natalie Watts

I have had an interest in creative writing since childhood and enjoy creating poems, stories and memoir pieces. At the Decatur Book Festival I literally bumped into Marty. His encouragement to sign up for email info led me to join AWC. I have not entered any contests nor published any of my work, though hope to through this active club.

A master's degreed RN, I am employed by Kennesaw State University as a mental health nursing clinical instructor.

In addition to writing, I love to travel, study wildflowers and enjoy hiking in and around Stone Mountain, where I reside with my husband. Three grown sons and cats have provided me with lots of story fodder. I am eager to meet AWC members and join a critique group.
Naw45@aol.com

Walter Inge

Education: Ph.D in physiology, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley

Work experience:

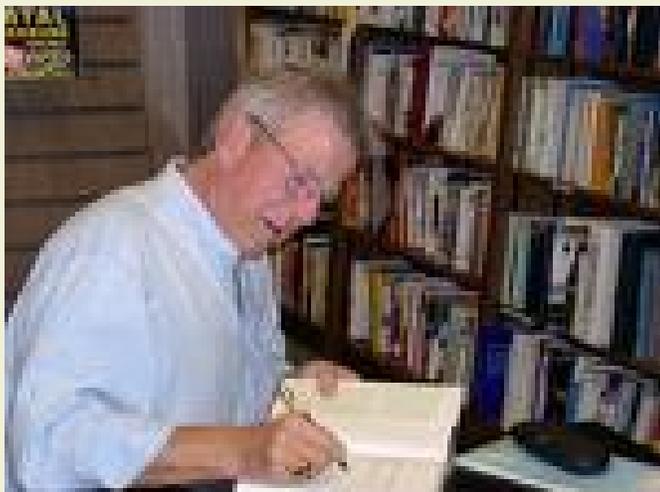
Air Force Master Navigator, served in numerous areas including Vietnam. Retired as Lt Col.

Physiology instruction at Air Force Academy, Boston University, St. Georges School of Med in Grenada, Emory University School of Medicine

Chief of biological and behavioral sciences, European Office of Aerospace Research, London.

Presently, writing for scientific journals and popular press.

8-PART WRITING WORKSHOP WITH JEDWIN SMITH



So you want to be an author? Well, Jedwin Smith and Eagle Eye Book Shop in Decatur want to help make your New Year's resolution come true!

Join critically acclaimed author Jedwin Smith for an 8-week fiction/nonfiction writer's workshop, hosted by Eagle Eye Book Shop (2076 N. Decatur Road, Decatur, GA 30033). The workshop is limited to 10-12 aspiring authors, and will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:00–8:30, beginning January 8 and concluding February 26.

Jedwin, recipient of 59 major writing awards, including two Pulitzer Prize nominations, will use his vast newspaper experience—29 years as a sports writer, columnist, feature writer, and war correspondent—plus the knowledge he's gained on the literary front, to help lead aspiring authors through the book publishing minefield.

The workshop will be filled on a first-come basis; the dates of future workshops will be announced in upcoming weeks.

The cost of the workshop is \$250, payment due by the first session. Atlanta Writers Club members will receive a \$20 discount.

Some of the issues Jedwin will cover at length include: Do you have the "write" stuff; finding and protecting your voice; structuring your book from start to finish; the secrets of story pacing; every book needs a rough outline; the end game: knowing when enough is enough; handling criticism & who to listen to; you're never done making mistakes.

To secure a workshop slot, contact Jedwin at: jedwin46@bellsouth.net

QUERY LETTER WORKSHOP ON FEBRUARY 7

The pursuit of a publishing contract requires you to first submit query letters to agents and/or publishers to introduce them to you and your story. Thus, your query letter has to be as good as—or even better than—your manuscript (for fiction) or book proposal (for nonfiction).

The Atlanta Writers Club wants to help you produce the best query letter you can, so we're bringing in **best-selling fiction author Joshilyn Jackson and best-selling nonfiction author Karen Abbott** to teach a query letter workshop on Saturday, February 7 at the Dunwoody Library. According to Joshilyn, "This workshop is about getting the best response for your query, which means reworking it and fine tuning the HELL out of it."

Each registrant will have a chance to submit work beforehand and meet one-on-one with either Joshilyn or Karen during the workshop to discuss their suggestions.

THE WORKSHOP:

The focus of the workshop is the one-on-one time with Joshilyn or Karen, but they will also do an hour-long group session and provide an in-class project to further assist you. The authors each will meet with 12 participants, six in the morning and six in the afternoon.

THE SCHEDULE: Saturday, February 7, 2009

- 10:00 am: Arrival and start of one-on-one meetings.
 - 10:15 am – 12:15 pm: Joshilyn and Karen each will meet one-on-one with six participants (approximately 20 minutes per meeting).
 - 12:15 pm – 2:00 pm: Group session with all workshop participants (morning and afternoon groups), followed by lunch.
- 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm: One-on-one meetings with six more participants.

WORK TO BE CRITIQUED:

If you're a fiction writer, Joshilyn wants you to submit the following work ahead of time:

- Query letter
- Synopsis (2 pages)
- First 5-7 pages of first chapter/prologue

If you're a nonfiction writer, Karen wants you to submit the following work ahead of time:

- Query letter
- One of the following: (a) overview from your book proposal, or (b) first 5-7 pages from the sample chapter you will include in your book proposal

You will need to submit your work for critique no later than January 3, 2009.

THE INSTRUCTORS:



Joshilyn Jackson is the author of three critically acclaimed, award-winning novels. Her latest, *The Girl Who Stopped Swimming*, was a national bestseller. Visit her website at www.joshilynjackson.com.

Karen Abbott is the NY Times best-selling nonfiction author of *Sin in the Second City*. She worked as a journalist for six years and has written for Salon.com and other publications. Her website is www.sininthesecondcity.com.



THE LOCATION:

The workshop will be held at the Dunwoody Library meeting room, 5339 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody, GA 30338 (only a couple of miles from our meeting location at GPC-Dunwoody). For directions, go to <http://www.dekalblibrary.org/branches/dunwoody.html>

THE COST & WORK SUBMISSION:

The cost is \$110 per person. You must be a 2009 member of the Atlanta Writers Club to participate. Registration is on a first-come basis, with only 12 spots available per author.

To RSVP, send an e-mail to VP George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com and tell him which author you want to critique your work. He will reply with payment instructions. Upon receipt of payment, he will give you details on when and how to submit your work for your author's critique.

Class size is limited to the first 24 club members who register—12 for fiction, 12 for nonfiction—so be sure to reserve your spot now!

AWC members: I recently transitioned into the role of facilitator for the critique group started over a year ago by Jennifer Taylor. We initially began as the Midtown Group, but some time ago moved to a different location. More accurately we are the Near Emory Group.

At our last meeting, we decided to open the group to one or two new members. We are a fiction group, and we meet at Panera's in the shopping area on North Decatur Road across from the main entrance to Emory University. Our meetings are every other Wednesday at 6:15 pm.

Ruth Gresh hrgresh@bellsouth.net.

Buckhead Poetry Critique Group Forming: Karen Holmes has successfully launched this critique group in Buckhead. The group meets monthly, and are deciding on location and details. If you are interested, please contact Karen at karen@simplycommunicated.com

Midtown Critique Group – Non-Poetry: Also, James Lay is likewise starting a critique group in Midtown. He already has one interested party, so please email to James regarding your interest: jwlay14@gmail.com

Roswell: A poetry group meets twice a month, typically on Saturday afternoons, at the Roswell Regional Library on Norcross St., near Hwy. 9. All styles of poetry welcomed. Interested members should contact Serena Tome at serena-tome@yahoo.com.

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

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/>

Speaker Summaries – November

By Shyla Nambiar

At 1:45 p.m., Joshua Corin, novelist, playwright, screenplay writer, and Georgia Perimeter College instructor, spoke on the differences between playwriting, screenwriting, and writing fiction. He compared playwriting with writing for the big screen and gave some fascinating insights into film treatment. He stated that to be a great novelist, you must have “a narrative voice,” and he shared his writing advice with the audience.

At 3:00 p.m., Karen Spears Zacharias, journalist, essayist, and nonfiction writer discussed writing and publishing nonfiction. Her keywords for the characteristics of the nonfiction writer were fearlessness, guilelessness, and relentlessness. She expanded on her work, which dealt with military families, and informed the audience of how she got involved in writing.



Joshua Corin lectures to attendees



Karen Spears Zacharias enjoying the meeting



Joshua at the signing table



Karen discusses viewpoints after her presentation

Openings Remain for The Atlanta Writers Conference Prep Workshop on January 24, 2009

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 May 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 workshop is 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.

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 are filling up quickly. Here are the details:

Participating 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's roster has been filled for critiques and pitches, but you can request to get on his Standby list.

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.

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.

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.
- Your 20-page manuscript sample for critique 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 Clarkston (off E. Ponce de Leon Avenue).

Cost:

You must be a [member](#) of the Atlanta Writers Club to participate in these workshops. If you are not, add \$40 to the costs below to cover your membership through the end of 2009.

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 george@atlantawritersclub.org to tell him:

1. Which author you want
2. 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:

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 george@atlantawritersclub.org 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 george@atlantawritersclub.org no later than January 17.

We hope you take advantage of these Prep Workshop sessions. 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 george@atlantawritersclub.org.

From the Tip of My Pen



Fran Stewart

Author, Editor, & Speaker

From the Tip of My Pen - A Writer's Tip of the Month – December 2008

by Fran Stewart

What is it about the end of the year? — Reiterations

The first three years I wrote this column, I wrote each December about resolutions for writers. The first list in 2004 was fairly straightforward: "I will write nothing but scintillating prose, if I can figure out how," for instance.

The next year showed a hint of where I was on my life journey: "I will write nothing but scintillating prose, if I can figure out how. Oh nonsense. Scintillating prose gets old fast if that's all there is. Good old short Saxon words and simple straightforward sentences have a lot to be said for them. Forget the *scintillate* and go for *sense*."

In 2006 I threw it all to the wind and wrote about spaghetti. December of 2007 had me writing about children's books. I have no intentions of going back to list resolutions ever again, unless I change my mind. Instead, I'd like to talk this year about reiterations.

To reiterate is more than simply to repeat. It is to do or say something over and over again with what Webster calls a *sometimes wearying effect*. Did you ever have that here-we-go-again feeling while reading an ineptly-written dialogue?

"Bob, I want to go to the movies," Pam said.

"I hate movies," Bob responded.

"I know, but this one is special. I think you might like it," Pam argued.

"I hate movies," Bob replied.

"Okay, you win," Pam relented.

How long can this conversation seesaw back and forth before we throw the book in the trash? (Don't even *think* about donating such drivel to Goodwill.) It's not only the repetitive "I hate movies," but the way in which the attributions—the said, responded, argued, replied, relented—march in strident mirror images of each other.

Let's try the same scene without the monotonous *reiterations*.

"Bob?" Pam slipped her shoes on. "I want to go to the movies."

He barely glanced at her. "I hate movies."

"I know, but this one is special. I think you might like it."

"I . . . hate . . . movies." Bob ground out the words.

Pam took off one shoe and threw it against the closet. "Okay," she shouted. "You win."

I've written before about the possibilities inherent in attributions, as well as the rhythm of language as a way to make your writing more distinctive. This month, take any dialogue you've written and plot the way you use *said*, or any other word that denotes who's speaking. Then fiddle with varying the rhythm of the lines. Your words can sing like Vivaldi, trudge like Rimski-Korsakov, exult like Mozart, croon like Sinatra, or holler like The Grateful Dead. Choose the kind of music you want to make, and play on. It's a great way to end the year.

Author, Editor, Speaker
The Biscuit McKee Mystery Series:

Orange as Marmalade

Yellow as Legal Pads

Green as a Garden Hose

Blue as Blue Jeans

THIS FALL: Indigo as an Iris - the 5th Biscuit McKee Mystery

Non-Fiction:

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"

AWC Obituary – Bernie Blanton

Mrs. Bernie Reynolds Blanton died at Rockdale Hospital on Saturday, November 1. She was born in Douglas County, Georgia, and had been a resident of Conyers, Georgia, for the past six years. After graduating Douglas County High School, she attended Mercer University in Macon, earning a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and English. During the Korean conflict, Mrs. Blanton served in the United States Air Force as an officer in charge of the 4651st WAF at Otis AFB in Falmouth, Mass. After her military service, she earned a degree in Business Administration from Georgia State University. She lived many years in Decatur, Georgia, and worked with the Social Security Administration. She also was a substitute teacher in the DeKalb County Schools for eight years.

She was a member of the Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur for fifty years, where she worked in the nursery and taught Sunday School. She is predeceased by her husband, Charles E Blanton, Jr., to whom she was married for 26 years. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Building Fund of Trinity Baptist Church, 301 Honey Creek Road, Conyers, GA. Horis A. Ward Funeral Home, Rockdale Chapel, (770) 918-8851.

If you are interested in signing her guest book, please visit this link:

<http://www.legacy.com/atlanta/GB/GuestbookEntry.aspx?&PersonID=119693684>

A **free review** of publishing contracts is available to members of the Authors Guild. Visit www.authorsguild.org.

Membership is \$90/yr, a lot cheaper than hiring a lawyer...

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.

Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

Membership dues are \$40 for the rest of 2008 and all of 2009. Also, we now have our family memberships, where each additional family member can join for \$20 and earn full membership benefits. We will gladly accept your cash or checks at any AWC event, 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.

Margaret Mitchell House



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 of 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:

December 4 [Bailey White](#)

December 9 [Dave Isay from NPR's "StoryCorps"](#)

December 11 [Terry Kay with APS Elementary Honors Chorus](#)

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

President	Marty Aftewicz	eQuill Publisher	Gene Bowen
First VP	George Weinstein		
Membership VP	David McCoy		
Secretary	Bill Black	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	eQuill Copy Editor	Gene Bowen
Marketing VP	Sarah Dollacker		
Social Director	Janean Brown		

Upcoming Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings

December 20, 2008— (at Dunwoody Library: 5339 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road Dunwoody, GA 30338, 770-512-4640, <http://www.dekalblibrary.org/branches/dunwoody.html>)

1:45-2:30 Jackie Lee Miles and Julie L. Cannon, Southern women's fiction authors, on the five things that make a good story great.

3:00-3:45 Children's author Laurel Snyder on writing for kids and young teens.

January 17, 2009—

12:00-1:15 Author and educator Brian Corrigan to present a free writing workshop with all-new material

1:45-2:30 Stephen Corey, poet, essayist, and editor of The Georgia Review, to speak about building your writing resume

3:00-3:45 Steve Berry, internationally best-selling thriller writer, will answer your questions about the craft of writing and the publishing industry

February 21, 2009—

1:45-2:30 Hollis Gillespie on writing the memoir

3:00-3:45 Jack Riggs on the writer's journey, from first book to the second

March 21, 2009—(at Dunwoody Library: 5339 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road Dunwoody, GA 30338, 770-512-4640, <http://www.dekalblibrary.org/branches/dunwoody.html>)

1:45-2:30 Neil Shulman, MD, author or co-author of over 20 books (including Doc Hollywood) and children's stories, on The Real Doc Hollywood: Unlocking the mysteries of getting a book published in New York and a movie made in Hollywood.

3:00-3:45 Jacqueline Hackett, literary agent, on how to get an agent.

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@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.
- Emory -** We are a fiction group, and we meet at Panera's in the shopping area on North Decatur Road across from the main entrance to Emory University. Our meetings are every other Wednesday at 6:15 pm. Ruth Gresh hrgresh@bellsouth.net.
- 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 Katieryle@yahoo.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 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.
- Roswell**
A poetry group meets twice a month, typically on Saturday afternoons, at the Roswell Regional Library on Norcross St., near Hwy. 9. All styles of poetry welcomed. Interested members should contact Serena Tome at serenatome@yahoo.com.
- 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:** 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 Contact Information

Please make checks payable to "The Atlanta Writers Club":

NEW

RENEWAL

2009 Membership Dues (also covers remainder of 2008 for new members):

- \$40 - Membership is valid through 12/31/2009 \$_____

- Add any family member for \$20 each \$_____
(Please supply their contact information using the form below or a separate form)

- 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

- 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 Phone _____

Work/Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Today's Date: ____/____/____