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 — June 20, 2009**

June 20, 2009--GPC Clarkston

12:00 - 1:00 **Lauretta Hannon**, Cracker Queen author, free workshop: “Marketing: Will It Make You or Break You?”

1:45 –2:30 **Philip Lee Williams**, novelist, poet, essayist, composer, and UGA creative writing professor, on writing about people on the fringes of society.

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**Summer Meeting Location**

Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody is closed on June 20 and July 18, but their Clarkston campus (on the east side of Atlanta) is offering their library auditorium to us.

(Continued on page 8)
In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President

Like many of you, a deep love of books was instilled in me when I was young, and I have since grown to be an omnivorous reader. Put me in a quiet place, give me a book, almost any good book, allow me some undisturbed time in a comfortable chair, and I will be un-speakably happy. If you are reading this column, I suspect that you can identify with this simple joy - just you, lost in worlds created by words.

Summer offers unique opportunities to indulge this longing to learn, to escape, to think, to be entertained and challenged and moved. Vacations, holidays, trips, and sunny afternoons are all gifts of time during these months, chances to read that we are not often given during the rest of the year. I understand the pressures that would prevent us from picking up a book. There are family responsibilities, projects, jobs, cell phones, bills, children, even our writing...a whole host of things that clamor for our attention. I understand that.

My challenge to you, though, is to set a reading goal for yourself this summer. Read outside the genre in which you write or tend to read. Climb out of the reading rut you may have fallen into. If you’re a novelist, pick up a volume of good poetry. Your prose will improve as you absorb the cadence and austere beauty of the language. If you mainly write short stories, read a classic novel. As you immerse yourself in the stories that have been read and treasured for generations, you begin to see contemporary issues in a fresh way. If you read fiction in your spare time, try some non-fiction for a change. History or politics or science will delight, surprise and anchor you in unexpected ways. Use stolen moments to read whenever you can, wherever you can. Just read. Don’t think of it as a superfluous activity, a guilty indulgence, unrelated to or in competition with your writing. As Stephen King wrote in On Writing, “If you don’t have time to read, you don’t have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that. Reading is the creative center of a writer’s life.” (p. 142).

It’s important if we want to develop as writers. It’s even more important if we want to develop as engaged, thoughtful human beings. Just consider this a friendly reminder and a gentle suggestion. Enjoy these days of summer...and take a good book with you as you go.

-Clay

The Second Annual Atlanta Writers Conference, held on May 8 & 9, was a rousing success. 90 members of the AWC participated, presenting 50 critiques and a total of 62 pitches before the five agents. The feedback we received from both sides of the table was overwhelmingly positive. Our thanks to Marc Fitten, George Weinstein, Marty Aftewicz, and our volunteer timers for their contributions to the event, and to all of you who were involved this year. It was a unique opportunity and we look forward to next year!

Take special note of the location of our monthly meetings in June and July. We will NOT meet at Georgia Perimeter College Dunwoody. We WILL meet at Georgia Perimeter College CLARKSTON. Directions and details are included later in the newsletter. Don’t fear. We’ll have plenty of signs to guide you. See you there.
Speaker Profiles for June 20 Meeting
by George Weinstein, VP and Program Chair

To give you an incentive to go to someplace new, we’re offering a special two-fer on June 20:

From 12:00 to 1:00, Lauretta Hannon, author of the poignant and hilarious memoir *The Cracker Queen*, is presenting a free workshop: “Marketing: Will It Make You or Break You?”

Lauretta has written for *Creative Loafing* in Savannah, read her essays on National Public Radio, and has become an expert at doing the hardest thing an author must face: selling a new, unheard-of book to perfect strangers. She’ll offer these marketing secrets to you. Whether you’re already out there flogging your latest work in the media and in stores, or you’re still on this side of the looking glass, wondering if you’re up for the challenge, Lauretta will inspire and ignite you! For more on *The Cracker Queen* and its author, please visit [http://www.thecrackerqueen.com/](http://www.thecrackerqueen.com/).

Then at 1:45, novelist, poet, essayist, composer, and UGA creative writing professor Philip Lee Williams will take the stage to talk about one of the uniting factors in all his writing: why he relates to and writes about people at the margins of society. If Phil is on the margin, then it is at the exceptional end. He is the author of 13 published books: nine novels, two works of non-fiction, and two volumes of poetry, including his newest publication, *Elegies for the Water*. His books have been published by such presses as W.W. Norton, Random House, Grove Press, Balantine, Dell, St. Martin’s Press, and Viking/Penguin. He won the Townsend Prize for Fiction for his first novel, *The Heart of a Distant Forest*.

Williams has also published poetry in more than 40 magazines. He has published essays and short stories. One story, "An Early Snow," published in 2000, was nominated by *The Chattahoochee Review* for a Pushcart Prize. In addition, he is a prize-winning documentary film writer and producer.

In a journalistic career for Georgia newspapers, he published more than a thousand feature stories and some 500 personal columns. Somehow, he’s also found time to compose 18 symphonies, a full-length opera, an oratorio, and chamber music. He also has composed several concept albums and prepared computer realizations of the music.

To hear his music and read excerpts of his work, please visit [http://www.philipleewilliams.com/](http://www.philipleewilliams.com/).
So you want to become a freelance writer? There are many reasons you might be interested in a freelance career - extra money, flexibility, or the chance to write about what you enjoy. During this four-week workshop, students will identify topics that target print, on-line publications and new media, such as blogging, then move to crafting a pitch, creating a relationship with editors and how to begin building a freelance base.


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 founded this idea for the club, but is currently on a leave of absence. We thank her for this idea and implementing the concept, and appreciate Lisa Heidle temporarily assisting us with this administration.
George Singleton Short Story Workshop

In place of our regular meeting on Saturday, July 18, we're bringing the ace of short stories, George Singleton, to the club for a half-day workshop--and all you have to pay for is the pizza and drinks.

Workshop Details

George Singleton has published short stories in a variety of magazines and journals including The Atlantic Monthly, Harper's, Playboy, Zoetrope, The Georgia Review, Shenandoah, Southern Review, Kenyon Review, Glimmer Train, North American Review, Fiction International, Epoch, Esquire.com, American Literary Review, and so on. His stories have been anthologized in eight issues of New Stories from the South, and also in 20 Over 40, Surreal South, Writers Harvest 2, They Write Among Us, and Behind the Short Story. His non-fiction has appeared in Bark and Oxford American, and has been anthologized in Best Food Writing 2005, Dog is My Co-Pilot, and Howl. He has published four collections of stories—These People Are Us, The Half-Mammals of Dixie, Why Dogs Chase Cars, and Drowning in Gruel—and two novels, Novel and Work Shirts for Madmen. To view and purchase his work, go to his website http://www.georgesingleton.com/

Find out why award winner Tony Earley says, "George Singleton is a big-hearted evil genius who writes as if he were the love child of Alice Munro and Strom Thurmond."

LOCATION & SCHEDULE ON JULY 18:

Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody is closed on July 18, but their Clarkston campus (on the east side of Atlanta) is offering their library auditorium to us that day.
Their hours are 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and we're going to be there the whole time:

(Continued on page 6)
10:00-10:15: Participants file in and grab their seats
10:15-12: Short story opening scenes/set-ups.
Noon-12:30: Lunch/break
12:30-1:00: Dialogue prompt
1:00-2:00: Examples of and discussion of story endings
2:00-2:50: Q&A about novels versus stories, markets, et cetera.

Georgia Perimeter College
Clarkston Campus
555 N. Indian Creek Drive
Clarkston, GA 30021

THE COST:

The club is subsidizing George Singleton's speaking fee entirely. We're charging only $10 per person for this incredible opportunity—just enough to cover the cost of lunch. You do have to be a 2009 member of the Atlanta Writers Club, however, so please join if you need to by going to our website:

http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/membership.html

Pay online or download and mail the form with your check.

REGISTRATION:

To register for this half-day workshop, please e-mail AWC VP George Weinstein at george@atlantawritersclub.org. He will respond with payment instructions. We hope to see you on July 18!

Note—if you do not wish to attend, count July 18 as a free day, since we will not be having our regular meeting then.
Johns Creek Poetry Group

WORDS ON POETRY: “It is possible for the poet to be better than himself in the poem he writes.”—Seamus Heaney

Future Opportunities for Poets:


Georgia Poetry Society Quarterly Meetings: July 25, Kennesaw State University. See www.georgiapoetrysociety.org

C. Georgia Poetry Society Membership fee of $30 due for calendar 2009. Send to GPS, P.O. Box 2184, Columbus, GA 31902.

For directions: www.northeast-spruill-oaks-regional-library

Sisters in Crime Event

Sisters in Crime (Atlanta Chapter) is having author Patti Sprinkle give a free presentation at Peachtree City library, HWY 54, Fayette County, on Saturday 13th June at 11 a.m.

Patti is author of over 30 novels and a former National President of Sisters in Crime. She’s a great speaker and very knowledgeable about writing and publishing.

Accolade

Frank Cox signed a book deal with McFarland Publishing, Inc., to publish his memoir, LULLABIES for LIEUTENANTS.

In addition, one of the chapters has been selected to be the feature article in the upcoming August issue of Vietnam Magazine which will be mailed to subscribers next week. His book will also be found in national bookstores including Barnes and Noble and Books-A-Million.
Writing was always my secret passion until just after the turn of the century when I began writing nonfiction works in the field of spiritual psychology. I just completed a two book science-fiction series, which is in the agent-acquiring stage. Much of my writing at the moment is related to my work as a coach, such as the ezine "Tweaking Your Life To Create Clarity And Abundance."

Through joining the Writers Club, I hope to continue my writing education, make valuable contacts and friends of like-mind, and get constructive feedback.

(Continued from page 1)

Georgia Perimeter College Clarkston Campus
555 N. Indian Creek Drive
Clarkston, GA 30021
http://www.gpc.edu/Campus_Maps/Clarkston.html

Take I-285 East toward Augusta/Greenville
Take exit 40 (Ponce de Leon Ave) toward Clarkston
At the top of the exit ramp, turn left onto E Ponce de Leon Ave
Turn right at light onto N. Indian Creek Drive

For parking, turn left onto Memorial College Ave and then take an immediate right into Student Parking Lot 3.

We will meet in the Jim Cherry Learning Resource Center (JCLRC) Auditorium in Building CL (a long, glass-paneled structure that also houses the library/"resource center"). The auditorium is in Building CL on the map link below. When you enter the building, you'll see the auditorium on the right. We'll post signs to lead you from the parking lot to the auditorium.

Here's a campus map:
http://www.gpc.edu/Campus_Maps/clarkston_large.gif
From the Tip of My Pen - A Writer’s Tip of the Month – June 2009
by Fran Stewart

Five Words or Fewer

Several weeks ago, John Lemly on WABE’s City Café asked Public Radio listeners to call in and tell the most important words they ever received in some form of communication. The limitation, though, was that it had to be “five words or less.” Grr! Miss Johnson, my 7th grade English teacher would be grinding her teeth if she were still alive to do so. I can still hear her pontificating about the difference between fewer and less. “Use the former word if what it’s describing can be counted. Use the latter if you’re talking about something that can be measured.” Fewer boulders on this beach and less sand on that one, for instance. Fewer people at a concert generate less volume in their applause. Fewer birds would mean less birdsong in the morning—awful thought.

That being said, what would be the most important five (or fewer) words I ever heard? Well, I’d have to mention two sets of five, and both of them involved one particular person. The first was in November of 1974. It was “Your pregnancy test was positive.” Since this was a planned and much-anticipated pregnancy, I floated down the stairs of the Planned Parenthood Clinic in Burlington, Vermont, grinning my fool head off.

Several years ago my son, the end result of that pregnancy, went on vacation to Dahab, Egypt, to scuba dive. When three bombs exploded in a crowded marketplace, the Egyptian government immediately shut down all internet and phone service. I spent a frantic day and a half, searching the news reports, hoping and praying, remembering how willingly I had taken on the role of mother, and how much light my son spread around him. I remembered reading him Lord of the Rings when he was in first grade. I remembered trips to the Shakespeare Tavern with him once he was grown. I tried very hard not to go into fear-mode, but the best five words I ever read—bittersweet, but still the best—were “I helped carry bodies yesterday.”

I’d urge you to think of five words (or fewer) that have meant the world to you. If you’re writing a novel, I’d suggest that you might want to use this as an exercise to get closer to your protagonist (or a minor character who isn’t well-formed yet). What would she say if she had to deliver a shocking message? How would he introduce a litany of hope? What five words (or fewer) would cause their hearts to leap up, like Wordsworth’s at the sight of his rainbow?

And, to encourage you in this exercise, all I can say is, “Sure, you can do it.”

Fran encourages other mystery writers to talk in more than five words about their books and the writing process each Friday on her internet radio talk show Mystery Matters: where murder is an open book. Find the link on her website www.franstewart.com

Author, Editor, Speaker

Beginning January 2, 2009:
Mystery Matters - where murder is an open book a weekly internet radio show featuring your favorite mystery writers
Click here for the radio show - FranStewart.com

"Healing the World through Teaching the Power of Gratitude"
Please go to the AWC website at <www.atlantawritersclub.org> to see more pictures from the picnic.
Membership Information – The Atlanta Writers Club

Membership dues are $40 per year. 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 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 Clay Ramsey at clay@atlantawritersclub.org.
Upcoming Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings

**June 20, 2009--GPC Clarkston**

12:00 - 1:00 Lauretta Hannon, Cracker Queen author, free workshop: “Marketing: Will It Make You or Break You?”

1:45 –2:30 Philip Lee Williams, novelist, poet, essayist, composer, and UGA creative writing professor, on writing about people on the fringes of society.

**July 18, 2009--GPC Clarkston**

10:00 - 3:00 George Singleton's Short-Story Workshop. Cost is $10 (for lunch). See [http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/events.html](http://www.atlantawritersclub.org/events.html) for details.
We are pleased to announce that Jennie Helderman has accepted the position of Critique Group Coordinator. She will become the focal point for maintaining an up to date and accurate listing of critique groups. She will also keep a list of individuals that are interested in a group in a particular geographical area. More news will come from her regarding critique groups.

So, if you are interested in joining a critique group that is yet to exist, or if wish to become a critique group leader, please e-mail Jennie at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

Buckhead/Midtown: Poetry group. Contact Karen Holmes at karen.holmes@comcast.net to be put on the distribution list and notified of future meeting dates.

Conyers: We are in search of a leader to reorganize this group. Anyone interested should contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

Decatur: A fiction group (all kinds) meets Saturday mornings 9:30-12 at the Indie Book Store on Ponce de Leon near the post office. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

Decatur: A children's and YA fiction group meets every other Tuesday, 10 a.m.-12:15 at the Java Monkey on Church Street almost opposite the Decatur Marta Station. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

Decatur: An adult and YA fiction group meets on Thursdays 7-9 p.m. at the Dr. Bombay Coffee Shop, 1645 McLendon Ave. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list.

Decatur: An adult/YA fiction group meets Thursdays 7 p.m.-9 at the Chocolatte Café on Clairmont and Church Streets. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write rickyjacobs@mac.com to be put on a wait list. You will be asked to submit about five pages of your writing and a brief bio.

Decatur: A nonfiction group meets Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale Estates. Email Rebecca Ewing at rebeccaewing@earthlink.net to get on her distribution list.

Dunwoody: Georgia Perimeter College's Learning and Tutoring Center sponsors Writers' Circle, an ongoing group of students and community members who enjoy the writing process and seek the support and insight of other writers. Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays, 1-3 p.m. in LTC Dunwoody campus, LRC (Library Building), Rm 3100. During school breaks, the group meets at Borders Bookstore. Contact Gelia Dolcimascolo at 770-274-5246 for further information.

Emory: A fiction group meets every other Wednesday at 6:30 at Panera’s in the shopping area on North Decatur Road opposite the main entrance to the Emory campus. E-mail Ruth Gresh at...
Lawrenceville: The novel/short story group which meets every other Thursday 10 a.m. to noon is full. Contact Barbara Connor at 678-226-1483 or ima-yaya@charter.net to be put on a wait list; or contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

Lawrence/Snellville: An all genre group meets on the first Saturday of every month 10 a.m. to noon at a member’s home. Contact Ken Schmanski at 770-377-1771 or kschmanski@yahoo.com for location and to get on his distribution list.

Marietta/Austell: We are in search of a leader to reorganize this group. Anyone interested should contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

Roswell: An all genre group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. at the Atlanta Bread Company near the corner of Hwy 92 and Woodstock Rd. Contact George Weinstein at 770-552-5887 or gjweinstein@yahoo.com to get on his distribution list.

Sandy Springs: An all genre group meets twice monthly on Mondays or Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. -1 p.m. at the Roswell Library. Contact Lynn Wesch at lewesch@bellsouth.net to get on her distribution list.

Smyrna: Contact Jenean Brown at shauntebrown@bellsouth.net for date and location of this group.

Woodstock: Anyone interested in a critique group in Woodstock please contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

Woodstock: A poetry group meets but with no set time. Contact Jill Jennings at 770-516-2482 or magistra_jennings@yahoo.com for more information.

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.
Please make checks payable to “The Atlanta Writers Club”:

- NEW
- RENEWAL

2009 Membership Dues (covers remainder of 2009):

- $30 - 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
Marty Aftewicz, 115 Ashford Cir, Dunwoody, GA 30338

• 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 _______________________________________________________

Today’s Date: _____/_____/_____

THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB
Membership Dues, Donations and Contact Information