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.

July 18, 2009
10:00-3:00 George Singleton Short-Story Workshop
See page 3 of eQuill for details
For website: http://www.georgesingleton.com/

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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 14)
In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President

The most significant point in this column of announcements this month is the news that the Atlanta Writers Club is now an IRS designated 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity. A more extensive statement of what this will mean for you and how this will open opportunities for our growth in the future will be provided to you soon, and will certainly be the topic of ongoing conversations with you in the weeks and months to come. One of the most notable differences is that all donations over the stated membership fee can now be considered tax-deductible charitable donations. Also, we are now eligible to apply for federal and private grants. The first is essentially an accounting issue. We are in the process of making certain that the way we keep records and track money flow is consistent with IRS guidelines for non-profits. The second consequence of this change in status requires more imagination. We now have access to a new pool of resources. Now is the time for brainstorming ideas, for asking ourselves what is now possible, for considering how we can grow into a premier, nationally recognized literary organization. Let’s begin a conversation about goals and direction. I really believe that we are on the cusp of something great. Let’s not settle for anything less than that.

After a few months without a Vice President of Operations, I am pleased to announce that Neda Gayle has agreed to accept this position. She has some great ideas. Combined with her infectious enthusiasm and solid experience, I have every expectation that she will do a fabulous job in this role. Her first big responsibility will be to recruit and coordinate our volunteers for the upcoming Decatur Book Festival. Expect to hear from her in the next couple of weeks, and plan to give her the support she needs to rally this organization of volunteers to represent the AWC in the best way possible.

The July 18 meeting has already received a lot of publicity, including a lengthy announcement in this newsletter, but it will not hurt to remind you of this outstanding opportunity. George Singleton will offer an extended workshop on the crafting of short stories. Even if you are not a short story writer, you will benefit from this worthwhile seminar. For a mere $10 for lunch, you can improve your writing skills and spend a day with a master of the art. If you are interested in participating, contact George Weinstein at george@atlantawritersclub.org. This workshop will be in place of our regular meeting.

After a phenomenal response at the first Youth Creative Writing Camp last summer, the second annual YCWC promises to be even more successful. If you would like to volunteer to help at the Camp on August 3 and/or 4, and influence the next generation of writers, please contact Lisa Heidle at lheidle@yahoo.com.

For our October 17 meeting, we will have the privilege of hosting the Nashville singer-songwriter Tralena Walker. As part of her presentation, she will be demonstrating how songs come together and will need the use of an electric keyboard and speakers. If you have these, and would be willing to let her use them for the afternoon, please contact George Weinstein at george@atlantawritersclub.org.

These are exciting days, and I consider it a privilege and joy to share them with you.

-Clay
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:
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.
Adult Creative Writing Class

taught by Natalie Lyalln, co-editor of GlitterPony Magazine (www.glitterponymag.com)

Monday – Friday, July 20 – 24 2009, 10 to 1 pm
Class will culminate in a reading featuring student work and Atlanta poet and Emory professor, Bruce Covey

Course Cost: $150
Please call (404) 303-6172 for information

Classes held at:
The Abernathy Arts Center
254 Johnson Ferry Rd, NW
Atlanta, GA 30328
WWW.FULTONARTS.ORG
Summer Adult Creative Writing Workshops   Freelancing 101
Instructor: Jennifer Taylor

Meets four weeks from 6-8pm; Mondays, July 6-27 on the third floor of the Margaret Mitchell House.   Cost: $150 AHC/MMH members; $175 Nonmembers

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.
June Speakers Summary

Speaker Summaries for the June Meeting, by Shyla Nambiar

At 12:00 p.m., Lauretta Hannon, author of *The Cracker Queen*, spoke to the group about marketing. She discussed her own writing career and read from her work. She gave much sound advice on how to market a work, such as building a website and asking oneself basic questions about the work’s quality and appeal.

At 1:45 p.m, Phil Williams, author of nine novels and two volumes of poetry, as well as being a recent inductee into the Georgia Writers’ Hall of Fame, related his own genesis as a writer. His focuses in his books on people living at the margins of society. He spoke on the content of his books and the reasoning behind them. His admonition about fiction was,” When a character handles things right, you have no story.”

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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](http://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](http://www.northeast-spruill-oaks-regional-library)
Take One
A Fundamental Look at Screenwriting
with
TERRY KAY

Workshop Details

Date
September 26 & 27, 2009

Time
Saturday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM and 1:30-4:30 PM
Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM

Fee
$140 OCAF Members
$150 Non-Members

Location
Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation
34 School Street
Watkinsville, GA

Registration
Advance registration is recommended as space is limited.

To register contact the OCAF office at (706) 769-4565 or email info@ocaf.com

This course is designed as an introduction to screenwriting for those who have limited experience in the medium, and as a refresher for those who have more advanced experience. The workshop will be taught by writer Terry Kay, who is a regional Emmy winner for his teleplay, Run Down the Rabbit, and whose background includes eight years as a film reviewer/essayist with The Atlanta Journal. In addition, Kay has written for the television series, In the Heat of the Night, and has worked on screenplays with such directors as Taylor Hackford (Officer and a Gentleman). He has had three of his novels translated into Hallmark Hall of Fame movies - To Dance with the White Dog, The Runaway, and The Valley of Light.

The primary reference for the course will be from writer-teacher Syd Field, who is considered the guru of screenwriting technique. In addition, resource material will be taken from Paul Argentini's Elements of Style for Screenwriters. Sessions will cover such topics as: Definition of Acts; plot points; character; treatment; use of dialogue; understanding cubism in screenwriting, and staying-on-point.

To visit Terry Kay's website go to:
www.terrykay.com

OCONEE CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION
34 School Street, P.O. Box 831
Watkinsville, GA 30677
(706) 769-4565, Fax (888) 804-8581
info@ocaf.com, www.ocaf.com
Panting or Sighing – A Lesson from the Breath

Did you know that the process that regulates your breathing is subject to whimsy? We can control how we breathe or we can simply let our body remember to do it for us. Some muscles are voluntary—crook your index finger and you'll see what I mean—while some are involuntary. Try to rearrange the speed at which you digest that carrot you just ate. Breathe fast. Breathe more slowly. That's voluntary. Now, think about what your breath has been doing the other 23.997 hours of this day. That's involuntary.

We writers can learn from our breathing. The lesson is called pacing. If we choose to write a fun, light, breezy story, one that would classify as a "beach read," the pace will be totally different than a thought-provoking tale that delves into the intricacy of our relationships. In the first case, our pacing will probably stay light or brisk, the way our breath is on a gentle walk. In the second case, though, we'll have to shift to abdominal breathing, drawing the story deep into our lungs and expelling it slowly. You might even gasp it out the way you would struggle for oxygen if you ran a forced marathon, but that's not the kind of book I write.

Does that mean you have to yoga-breathe for 75,000 words? Of course not. As you plot your story arc, be sure to regulate your pacing. Insert some breathing spaces into your thriller or some tension into your beach read. Too much meat can be just as unhealthy as too much ice cream.

Word choice is one of the tools you can use to set the pace. Consider these seven words: anticipation, dread, cynicism, bewilderment, willingness, doubt, exhilaration. Apply each of these to your protagonist's view of an upcoming meeting, phone call, or wedding. See how the pace slows with some and speeds up with others?

When you're re-writing, pay attention to your own breath. Does one chapter elicit an anticipatory breath pattern or does it slow your breath into a deliberate susurration? Look at your minor characters. They're a good device for varying the pace. A well-placed and well-delineated walk-on character can add anything from laughter to despair. At the same time, remember to imbue your protagonist with both light and dark moments. If you want to bore your reader, create a hero who makes all the right choices all the time. Or a heroine who makes all the wrong ones. Stereotypical characters will propel readers into mind-numbing ho-humming, hardly a worthy goal for a writer.

Be open to the sudden intake of breath when a character you thought you knew heads off on a tangent. Follow along, whether huffing and puffing or with bated breath. Learn to trust the process. You can always re-write if you need to.

Here's one more tip. Use colored markers in the margins of your latest draft. Red for fast-paced paragraphs, orange for slowing or shifting ones, and green for slow. Try yellow for humor and blue for a darker mood. Next, flip quickly through the pages and see which color predominates.

Remember—you are the author. Your characters may dictate entire chapters, yet you have not only the right but the ultimate responsibility as well, to determine the pacing of your novel. Inhale, exhale. We have to do both in order to live.

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Do you enjoy these monthly tips? I'd love to hear from you. Email me at mysterymatters@earthlink.net --Fran
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 online 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.
The Atlanta Writers Club Board

President: Clay Ramsey
First VP: George Weinstein
Membership VP: Marty Aftewicz
Secretary: Bill Black
Treasurer: John Sheffield
Publicity VP: Patricia Patterson
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Contests VP: Tara Coyt
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Historian/By-Laws: Adrian Drost
Photographer: Jennie Helderman
eQuill Copy Editor: Gene Bowen
Emcee of open Mic: Alicia Plant
T-Shirt Sales: Terre Spencer
Critique Groups: Jennie Helderman
Lending Library: Lisa Heidle

Upcoming Schedule of Saturday Club Meetings

July 18, 2009
10:00-3:00 George Singleton Short-Story Workshop [for eQuill: "See page 3 for details" | for website: click for details with a link to the Events page]

August 15, 2009
1:45-2:30 Marc Fitten, author of Valeria's Last Stand, on having a book published for the first time--now what?
3:00-3:45 Don O’Briant, author most recently of Newcomer’s Guide to Georgia, on how he went from being a book review editor to writing books: a look at the publishing business from two different sides.

September 19, 2009
1:45-2:30 Mark Victor Hansen, creator of the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, on two new series he’s launching for those wishing to get published.
3:00-3:45 Kathryn Stockett, author of The Help, on getting your foot in the door.

October 17, 2009
1:45-2:30 Jessica Handler, essayist and author of the memoir Invisible Sisters, will discuss the use of journals, family documents, and public records in crafting memoir.
3:00-3:45 Tralena Walker and Tom Webster, country songwriting duo, on the art of songwriting.
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.

New non-fiction group
Anyone interested in leading or participating in a new nonfiction group to meet in the city, please contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net. This group will organize in late July or August.

Buckhead/Midtown
A 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 Atlanta Bread Company, corner of Ponce de Leon and Church Streets. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write at 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.

An adult/YA fiction group meets every other Sunday, 3 p.m.-5:45 at the Indie Book Shop on Ponce de Leon near the post office. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write at 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.

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 at 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.

An adult and YA fiction group meets on Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. (formerly at Indie Book Shop). The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write at rickyjacobs@mac.com for new location and/or to be put on a wait list.

An adult/YA fiction group meets Thursdays 7 p.m.-9 at the Choco-latte Café on Clairmont and Church Streets. The group is full at present. Phone Ricky Jacobs at 404-378-7365 or write at 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.

A nonfiction group meets Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. at Urban Grounds in Avondale. Group is full. E-mail Rebecca Ewing at rebeccaewing@earthlink.net to be put on a wait 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 hrgresh@bellsouth.net for date of the next meeting.

Lawrenceville
A novel/short story group, not affiliated with AWC, meets every other Thursday 10 a.m. to noon is full. Contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net to be put on a wait list or if you can lead another group.

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
We are in search of a leader to re-organize this group. Anyone interested should contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net.

Midtown
A fiction/non-fiction group meets at Borders at 1745 Peachtree St. on alternating Wednesdays. Contact Hollis Wright at 404-964-3702 for time and dates.

Roswell
An all genre group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. at the Atlantic 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 on Mondays, 10:30 a.m. -12:30 at the Roswell Library. Contact Lynn Wesch at lewesch@bellsouth.net to get on her distribution list.

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.
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
THE ATLANTA WRITERS CLUB

Membership Dues, Donations and Contact Information

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 $___________

Tax Deductible Donation in the amount of $___________

Total $___________

Please mail with checks payable to The Atlanta Writers Club to Marty Aftewicz, 115 Ashford Circle, 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: ________/______/___________

_____________________________ has donated $_____________________ to The Atlanta Writers Club.
This amount is not associated with any services provided in exchange for, or related to, this contribution.