



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.

e Quill

Agenda for —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.

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The Quill

In Context, by Clay Ramsey, President



We are right in the middle of the dog days of summer, those sticky, languorous days that drag on beneath the ascendant Dog Star, when all we want to do is sit in front of a fan and guzzle lemonade. But we don't. We know that school will start in a matter of weeks, and if we have children or just respond to our own childhood conditioning, we are in a frenzy to cram as much activity into our schedules as we can before the end of summer. We are anxious to have as many picnics and hours at the beach and days at the mountain cabin and minutes in the sun as we can. These are good days, fun days, busy days. Who has the time or the strength or the desire to do anything serious, like write? It's a good question.

The seventeenth-century English poet Robert Herrick is responsible for the challenge to "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may." The poem from which the line is taken is a plea to the young to marry, and while I am taking some license, I don't think it an unlikely stretch to interpret it as a reminder to writers to make the most of their time, as well. In fact, I think Mr. Herrick, as a literary man himself, might very well approve the adaptation.

While we all have developed our own system of composition, I want to challenge you to use the free minutes of these days to improve your craft. If you don't already, get in the habit of carrying a pad and pen with you. You might sit next to someone on MARTA who would be a perfect minor character in your next novel. The conversation of the couple at an adjacent table during lunch might very well provide a new direction in the dialogue of a crucial scene in your screenplay. Are you out for a walk while there is a stunning sunset? Translate it into words. Are you stung by news of a layoff, or a death, or a divorce? Don't let a raw emotion or original thought dissipate before you commit it to paper. Einstein famously remarked that ideas struck him "in the bed, in the bath, and in the bus" – not particularly agreeable places to transcribe his notions about the mysteries of the universe - but that obviously didn't stop him from capturing these insights.

But doesn't this mean I'll be writing all the time? you may ask. That's the point. Writers write. Even when mosquitoes nip and temperatures rise and vacations beckon. Use these days. Gather the rosebuds of experiences and thoughts and smells and sights and sounds, scribble away, so that when the cold, dark days of fall come, when you settle down to write that first draft or work through a new project, you will have the materials to do your best work.

These dog days, far from being the tedious, soul-sapping days of legend, are in fact full of material for your creativity to fashion into literary gold. Enjoy these days, and take notes as you do.

All the best,

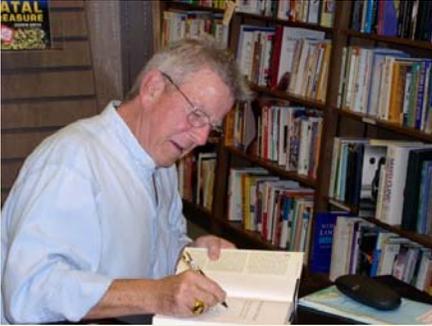
Clay

For our August 15 meeting, we will return to the DUNWOODY Campus of Georgia Perimeter College. If you go to Clarkston, you will find yourself alone in an empty auditorium. It should be a great meeting with Marc Fitten and Don O'Briant, and we don't want you to miss it. There will also be a representative from the Decatur Book Festival with important info about the DBF. Speaking of which...

There is still time to sign up to volunteer for the Festival. Neda Gayle, our VP of Operations, is organizing the schedule for our folks to work at the AWC booth, the Emerging Writers Pavilion and the Local Prose Stage at Twain's. Contact her at nedagayle@att.net if you are interested, but don't wait too late to get in on the fun!



Jedwin Smith Writing Workshop for Nonfiction and Fiction:



Join critically acclaimed author Jedwin Smith for an 8-week fiction/nonfiction writer's workshop, hosted by Eagle Eye Book Shop in Decatur. The workshop is limited to 12 aspiring authors, and will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30, beginning September 10 and concluding October 29.

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 with two well-reviewed books, 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 the upcoming weeks.

The cost of the workshop is \$250, payment due by the first session. Atlanta Writer's Club members will receive a \$20 discount. To register, contact Jedwin Smith directly at jedwin46@bellsouth.net



David Fulmer will be conducting **Pitch Workshops** on two Saturdays, August 1st and August 8th. The workshops are designed for both fiction and non-fiction author and cover the essentials of pitching agents and editors: query letters, synopses, treatments, and all the rest.

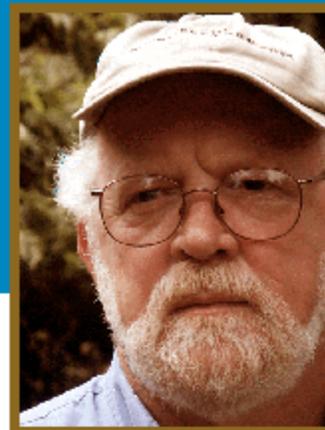
Sessions are from 12:30 pm-3:30 pm in the Reading Room at Eagle Eye Book Shop on North Decatur Road.. The \$60 cost includes lunch from Willie's Mexicana Grill. For details, contact David at david-fulmer@bellsouth.net.

Also, David will also be starting a new **Fiction Shop** on August 24th. Now in it's third year, classes meet Monday nights from 6:15-8:15 at Eagle Eye. The cost for the eight-week course is \$195. Information is here: www.davidfulmer.com/ShopPage.html



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



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34 School Street, P.O. Box 831
Watkinsville, GA 30877
(706) 769-4565, Fax (888) 804-8581
info@ocaf.com, www.ocaf.com

July 18th images



George Singleton at the Short Story Workshop



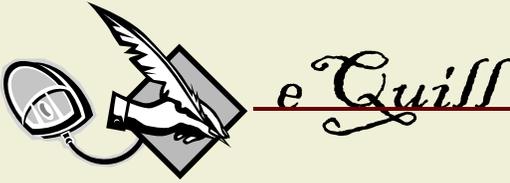
George Weinstein introduces George Singleton



Famished AWC members enjoy a lunch break at the Singleton Workshop

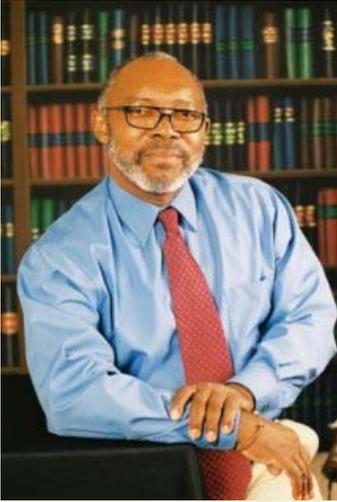


Neda Gayle and Terre Spencer greet AWC members at the July 18 meeting



Decatur Book Festival Appearance Julius Thompson

www.itwrites.com [Ghosts in the Crawl Space](#), Saturday, September 5th, 1:15 p.m., Eddie's Attic



Julius Thompson's journey to compose a trilogy began in 1995. The fourteen-year fictional journey of character Andy Michael Pilgrim from Brooklyn, to Philadelphia and finally Atlanta is now complete. In this pilgrimage, readers experience places that are filled with hopes, dreams, challenges and fears that make us human.

The novels that make up the trilogy are: *A Brownstone in Brooklyn* which was published in 2001, *Philly Style and Philly Profile* in 2007 and *The Ghost of Atlanta* in 2009. Julius Thompson received the Georgia Author Of The Year nomination for *Philly Style and Philly Profile* from the Georgia Writer's Association in 2007.

He is writing his fourth novel, *Purple Phantoms*, which is a story about the haunting of a mythical high school basketball team. He is currently a Creative Writing/Publishing Instructor at Evening at Emory's Writers Studio.

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 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.



Recent Publication by AWC member Scott Kenan

Walking on Glass: A Memoir of the Later Days of Tennessee Williams

Synopsis

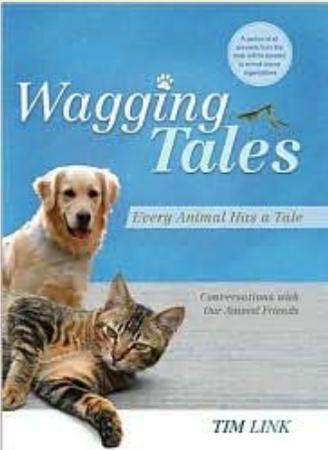


In the fall of 1981, when Tennessee Williams found his household in an uproar after a visiting ex-lover ran his housekeeper off with a gun, he turned to Scott Kenan for help. Recently laid off from a restaurant management job and standing an inch short of seven feet tall, Kenan was available and appeared capable of handling any situation.

Never before has anyone chronicled the experience of living and working continuously at the playwright's side. *Walking on Glass: A Memoir of the Later Days of Tennessee Williams* takes the reader on a journey through the world of Tennessee Williams—a world where Kenan mollified the playwright's volatile moods while a cast of characters Williams might have created came and went, competing for his favor. Many iconic people, including Meryl Streep, Jackie Onassis, Truman Capote, Audrey Hepburn, and Ronald Reagan, crossed their path—sometimes in shocking ways.

Ten months later, Williams was dead. Kenan's chronicle concludes with a twist that casts the entire book in a new light when an executor of Williams' estate reveals what was found in the playwright's desk.

New Member Profile



Tim Link, president and CEO of Link's Wagging Tales, Inc., is an animal communicator, author and speaker. As part of his passion for helping animals, Tim also has mastered Reiki – an ancient art of energy healing – which he uses on animals. His new book, *Wagging Tales: Every Animal Has a Tale*, introduces the reader to 32 stories about animals and the scenarios that prompted their owners to seek his assistance. He has been featured nationally and internationally in numerous articles, and on mlinktelevision and radio programs. He enjoys spending time at home with his wife and their many pets in Cumming, Georgia. For more information about Tim, visit <http://www.wagging-tales.com/>.

Tim Link

www.wagging-tales.com

404-422-6355

P.O. Box 2068

Cumming, GA 30028

My new book, *Wagging Tales: Every Animal Has a Tale*, is now available. Order it now from Amazon's, Barnes and Noble's or Border's web sites.

http://www.selfgrowth.com/experts/tim_link.html

<http://www.consciouslivingspace.com/profile/TimLink>

<http://twitter.com/timlinkwt>

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Tim-Link/1313840360>

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



The Quill



AWC Co-Sponsors Agent's Panel at the Marietta Book Fair on the Square

The second annual Book Fair on the Square in Downtown Marietta will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 3rd. The Square will be transformed into a literary oasis as your favorite au-

thors, books and characters steal the spotlight during this fun event.

The excitement starts Saturday morning, at the Theatre on the Square, with the **Agent's Panel**, co-sponsored by the Atlanta Writer's Club. This is an opportunity for aspiring authors to hear a literary agent and two noted local authors discuss the role of the agent, how to query an agent, and the author/agent working relationship. One lucky person will win a critique of the first 10,000 words of her/his manuscript by Sterling Lord agent Robert Guinsler. To register, complete the form on the next page and send it with your payment. Atlanta Writers Club members pay only \$10 for this event, a 50% discount!

PANEL MEMBERS

Robert Guinsler - Agent

Robert has been with Sterling Lord Literistic since 2000. His primary interests include literary and commercial fiction, journalism, narrative nonfiction with an emphasis on pop

culture, science and current events, memoirs and biographies. Robert's clients are journalists, including a number of Pulitzer Prize winners, novelists and academics. Authors he represents include Barnes and Noble Discover pick Doug Crandell, author of

The Flawless Skin of Ugly People, Jonathan Engel, author of *American Therapy: The Rise of Psychotherapy in the United States*, and Adam Bradley, author of *Book of*

Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop and the forthcoming *Yale Anthology of Rap Lyrics*.

Doug Crandell - Author

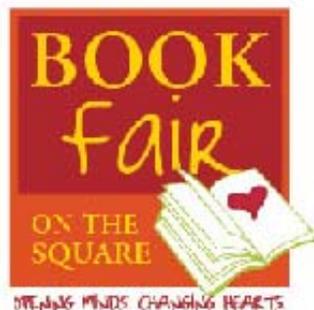
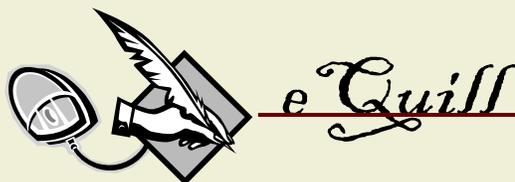
Georgia author and Douglasville resident Doug Crandell has published several books including *The Flawless Skin of Ugly People*, *The All-American Industrial Motel* and

Hairdos of the Mildly Depressed. With four books on the shelf and a new novel in the pipeline due out later this year, Doug has successfully navigated the publishing waters by maintaining what he refers to, as the literary lifestyle. That means building a network of fellow writers who help one another along the road to publication.

Rebecca Burns – Author/Editor

Rebecca Burns has been the editor in chief of *Atlanta* magazine since September 2002. Under her direction, the magazine has received dozens of local, regional, and national awards for its journalism and design excellence. In 2006, Rebecca Burns published *Rage in the Gate City: The Story of the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot* (Emmis Books). That non-fiction historical narrative was described in Booklist as "a detailed and riveting account" of a little known but horrific slice of Atlanta's history.

For more information about the Book Fair on the Square, click: <http://www.bookfaironthesquare.com/>



Agent's Panel Registration

This is an opportunity for aspiring authors to hear an agent with information such as the role of the agent, how to query an agent, and the author/agent working relationship. One lucky person will have up to 10,000 words of their manuscript read. A question and answer session will follow. The Agent's Panel is co-sponsored by the Center for Community Based Partnerships, Inc. and the Atlanta Writers Club.

When: Saturday, October 3, 2009. 9-11 a.m.
Where: Theatre in the Square – 11 Whitlock Ave - Marietta, GA
Registration due: September 15, 2009.

Checks made payable to:

Center for Community Based Partnerships, Inc.
 3830 South Cobb Drive, Suite 300
 Smyrna, GA 30080



Name:		
Address:		
Email Address:		Telephone #:
Method of Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard (We do not accept American Express)		
16-digit Credit Card Number:	3-digit Security code:	Expiration Date:
Cardholder's Name:		
Cardholders Billing Address:		
Type of Registration: Please check one; <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 – Member of AWC <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 - Non-Member To become a member of the Atlanta Writers Club, please go to www.atlantawritersclub.org and click the Membership link.		
Credit Card Holder's Signature		
Questions – call 770-429-5039 by email dfields@cobbcbs.com or giweinstein@yahoo.com		



Speaker Profiles for August 15 Meeting

by George
Weinstein, VP and
Program Chair

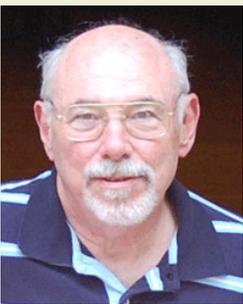
We're back for a long stay at the Dunwoody campus of Georgia Perimeter College, in the C-1100 auditorium, and will provide you with a sensational meeting on August 15 that features diverse speakers with unique insights about the craft and business of writing.

During the 1:30 club business segment, Decatur Book Festival program director Tom Bell will discuss the September 5-6 festival events (some of which the AWC is managing and staffing with our volunteers), and he will hand out DBF programs with the speaking times and venues for many of your favorite authors.



At 1:45, first-time novelist **Marc Fitten**, who also is the editor of *The Chattahoochee Review* literary magazine, will discuss adventures with *Valeria's Last Stand*, and how he turned his blog into a way to generate huge, ongoing buzz about his book tour. See Marc Fitten's Indie 100 blog at indie100mfitten.wordpress.com. Marc is a native of Brooklyn, NY, and spent nearly a decade living and traveling in Europe, gathering stories and research that helped him to create his novel. *Publisher's Weekly* called his book "a promising debut" and Ron Rash compared the title character to Chaucer's Wife of Bath: "every bit as sensual and irrepressible."

Prior to Bloomsbury publishing *Valeria's Last Stand*, Marc was published in *Prairie Schooner*, *The Louisville Review* and *Esquire.com*. At our meeting, he also will discuss what kinds of submissions catch his eye as editor of *The Chattahoochee Review*, and he will answer all of your questions about the publishing environment for fiction. For more about Marc, please visit www.marcfitten.com.



At 3:00, former *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* veteran **Don O'Briant** will talk about his journey from one side of the desk--as a feature writer and book editor--to the other side, as a non-fiction author now being reviewed and critiqued by his former colleagues. Don is the author of seven books, including *Backroad Buffets & Country Cafes*; *Travel Smart: Georgia*; *Looking for Tara: A Gone with the Wind Guide to Margaret Mitchell's Atlanta*, and his latest from John F. Blair, Publisher: *Newcomer's Guide to Georgia*.

Many know of Don O'Briant from his terrifying encounter at gunpoint with convicted courthouse killer Brian Nichols on March 11, 2005. During that week, he appeared on *Good Morning America*, *Today* on NBC, CNN News, *Nancy Grace*, and *Larry King Live*. As he told CNN, "The thing I do best is to write stories. So I figured that maybe I was still here for at least one reason. I had some books to write." Don will talk about those books and the unique perspective he has developed from working on both sides of the publishing desk. To learn more about Don's latest book, please visit his publisher's website: www.blairpub.com/alltitles/newcomersguidega.htm.



The Quill

From the Tip of My Pen



Fran Stewart

Author, Editor, & Speaker

Author, Editor,
Speaker

Beginning January
2, 2009:

Mystery Matters -
where murder is
an open book
a weekly internet
radio show
featuring your fa-
vorite mystery
writers

[Click here](#) for the
radio show -

FranStewart.com

"Healing the World
through Teaching
the Power of Grati-
tude"

Ups and Downs – Situational Directions

If we wolf it down, we might eventually have to throw it up. My granddog came for a visit recently, gorged on a patch of particularly succulent grass, and . . . well, you get the idea. It started me thinking, though, about the way we use directional words like **up** and **down**. Phrases like *drink it down* and *barf it up* are fairly logical. So are *rev up* and *power down*, if one thinks of the sound pitches involved in these two processes, but when I searched for other examples, I found that there didn't seem to be any rules.

In order to *look down your nose*, you might very well need to lift your chin, for instance. And why would we *look up* a word in the dictionary, when we'd probably need to lower our head—or at least our eyes—in order to do that? We *send down* murderers when we incarcerate them, and *put down* ailing animals when we euthanize them. Yet we *hang up* a phone, which has nothing to do with the movement involved, and we get down on the floor to do *push-ups*, and then stand up and walk around in order to *cool down*.

There are *pop-ups* on the computer screen, as well as *drop-down menus*, yet an actor who wants to get back at a fellow player will *upstage* him, while an irate employer will *dress down* an employee. That same employer might, however, approve an official *dress-down day*, thereby delighting that employee.

When we get tired, we *run down*, a reference to watches that had to be *wound up* each day so they wouldn't *run down*. In an increasingly digital age, will that phrase become obsolete—what, after all, does *clockwise* mean to the average child today? I doubt it, since we frequently insist on running around and running ourselves ragged while we *run up* phone bills trying to *run down* information we need to *update*. And we get *uptight* in the process, possibly enough to create an *uproar*, or at the very least an *upset*.

We may be *upbeat* until someone *upbraids* us. We *update* a friend by giving them a *rundown* of our day. If we want to *upgrade* to more fuel-efficiency, we may need to *downsize* our vehicle. Did you ever want to *upholster* your couch in a *down* comforter? Ever put money *down* on a house? Ever had to *ante-up* in a poker game? Cities may be slow on the *uptake* to revitalize their *downtown* areas.

People in Vermont go *down east* to get to Maine. People from Maine go *up* to Boston. And why, I ask you, are the hills in England calls the *downs*? Hmm. I need to stop this roller-coaster ride. I'm not ready to go anywhere in my *pickup* truck, and I don't want to play *pickup* sticks. I'm not interested in a *pickup* at a dance club; I'd rather *pick up* on the nuances of good conversation. That's it! I'll *pick up* the phone, *ring up* a friend, and *count down* the time until we can *scrape up* the money for a dinner *uptown*. Of course, if my friend lived on the side of the hill below me, I'd have to *ring down* to that friend. Maybe I'll just *turn up* the radio and *dance up a storm*.

Fran Stewart delights in the English language. And she loves to hear from readers. Email her at fran@franstewart.com



**ANNOUNCING
THE 2009-2010
ATLANTA
WRITERS
CONFERENCE
PREP
WORKSHOPS**

In 2008-2009, we presented two preparatory workshops with well-published authors to help AWC members get their manuscripts and pitches ready for the Atlanta Writers Conference with literary agents in May 2009. All of the agents remarked on the polished work they reviewed and the smooth pitches delivered, so it's evident these workshops helped. Therefore, we're pleased to announce the 2009-2010 Atlanta Writers Conference Prep Workshops, 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 verbal presentation as solid and professional as possible, so you can succeed when you query on your own, attend literary events, and participate in the Atlanta Writers Club conference with the agents in May 2010.

OVERVIEW:

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

To check on your progress implementing the author's suggestions, you can receive another critique and/or pitch session with the author of your choice in early 2010 so you and the author can evaluate your progress and continue to smooth the rough edges. If you're not ready for the Fall 2009 Prep Workshop, you can meet with the author of your choice for the first time in early 2010.

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 2010. Be sure to register ASAP—spots for both workshops will fill up quickly. Here are the details:

PARTICIPATING FICTION AUTHORS:



David Fulmer—Author of seven historical mysteries, including the critically acclaimed *The Blue Door*, his popular New Orleans mysteries with Valentin St. Cyr, and his newest, an e-book titled *The Last Time*. His works have won the Shamus Award for mysteries and the Benjamin Franklin Award for audiobooks, and he was an LA Times Book Prize nominee. He also regularly teaches the craft and business of writing in classes held at Eagle Eye Bookshop. David will critique mainstream fiction, mysteries, thrillers, and suspense.



Joshilyn Jackson—Author of three mainstream novels, including the *New York Times* bestseller *The Girl Who Stopped Swimming*. Her first two works, *gods in Alabama* and *Between, Georgia* were #1 BookSense Picks, making her the first author ever to receive that honor in back-to-back years. The editor of BookPage remarked in a review of her work, "Every now and then...a remarkable writer comes along to reenergize American Fiction. So it is with Joshilyn Jackson." Joshilyn will critique all fiction genres, from mainstream to sci-fi/fantasy.



PARTICIPATING NONFICTION AUTHOR:



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 started critiquing work at our 2008 prep workshop and enjoyed it so much--and proved so adept at it--that he began teaching writing at Eagle Eye Bookshop as well as providing one-on-one coaching for writers. Jedwin will critique any non-fiction works (memoir, history, military, self-help, etc.) and even fiction works.

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

REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR FALL 2009 PREP WORKSHOP & CRITICAL DATES:

- Registration is NOW OPEN and will continue until each author has filled the 10 spaces allotted for critique sessions and 12 spaces for pitching. Standby lists for each author will be created as necessary.
- For the Fall 2009 Prep Workshop, your 20-page manuscript sample for critique is due by October 31.
- The Fall 2009 Prep Workshop will be held on Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an hour for lunch, at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody (or the GPC campus in Clarkston if a scheduling conflict arises).

REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR WINTER 2010 PREP WORKSHOP & CRITICAL DATES:

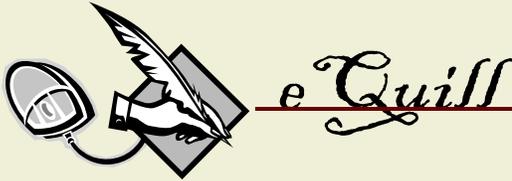
- Registration is NOW OPEN and will continue until each author has filled the 10 spaces allotted for critique sessions and 12 spaces for pitching. Standby lists for each author will be created as necessary.
- For the Winter 2010 Prep Workshop, your 20-page manuscript sample for critique (either reworked using the author's Fall Workshop feedback or a new piece if you didn't attend the Fall Workshop) is due by January 2.
- The Winter 2010 Prep Workshop will be held on Saturday, February 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an hour for lunch, at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody (or the GPC campus in Clarkston if a scheduling conflict arises).

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 for the remainder of 2009 and all of 2010.

For the Fall 2009 Prep Workshop, the cost is \$100 for a critique and \$30 for a pitch. If you would like to eat lunch with the workshop authors, add \$10 to the total.

For the Winter 2010 Prep Workshop, if you signed up for the Fall Workshop too, the cost for reevaluation of your work is \$75 for a critique and \$25 for a pitch. If you would like to eat lunch with the workshop authors, add \$10 to the total.



If you didn't sign up for the Fall Workshop but want to participate in the Winter Workshop, or you participated in the Fall Workshop but want a different work evaluated this time, or want a different author to critique it, the cost is \$100 for a critique and \$30 for a pitch. Again, if you would like to eat lunch with the workshop authors, add \$10 to the total.

TO REGISTER:

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

1. Which author you want as your first choice and second choice
2. Which workshop you want: Fall or Winter or both
3. Which session you want: critique or pitch or both
4. Whether you want lunch with the authors at the Fall and/or Winter workshop

You will receive George's reply about whether a seat still is available with an author for the sessions you desire. If a seat is not available, you'll be placed on standby for your first or second choice (whoever has the shortest standby line).

In addition, you will receive 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 recommend some books to help you work on your pitch.

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 will take your place.

REFUND POLICY:

For the Fall 2009 Prep Workshop, if you paid for a critique but cannot make it to the December 5 event, you will receive a refund if you have not submitted your work and you notify George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than October 31. If you paid for a pitch but cannot make it to the December 5 event, you will receive a refund if you notify George at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than November 21.

For the Winter 2010 Prep Workshop, if you paid for a critique but cannot make it to the February 6 event, you will receive a refund if you have not submitted your work and you notify George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than January 2. If you paid for a pitch but cannot make it to the February 6 event, you will receive a refund if you notify George at gjweinstein@yahoo.com no later than January 23.

We hope you take advantage of the Fall 2009 and Winter 2010 Prep Workshops. They should help you present your best work whenever your query or speak with an agent/publisher, and especially at the Atlanta Writers Conference in May 2010. Conference information and the opening date for Conference registrations will be announced in February 2010. If you have any questions, please direct them to George Weinstein at gjweinstein@yahoo.com



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 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 Clay Ramsey at clay@atlantawritersclub.org.



The Atlanta Writers Club Board

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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

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.



Club- Sponsored Critique Groups

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 within the city, please contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net. The group will organize in late August or early September.

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.

Buckhead: An all-genre group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights at 7 at Starbucks at Lindburgh. Group is closed. Contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net to be on a wait list or to form a new group.

Conyers: A new group is forming to serve Conyers, Covington, Madison and surrounding communities. Contact Zoe Courtman-Smith at zoe.courtman@gmail.com or 770-826-9425.

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: 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 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 Chocolate 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 hrgresh@bellsouth.net for date of the next meeting.

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 imayaya@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: A group is forming in late August to serve the Marietta area. Anyone interested should contact Jennie Helderman at jmhelderman@comcast.net. Watch for an announcement of an organizational meeting.

Midtown: An all-genre group meets on alternating Wednesdays at Borders at 1745 Peachtree St. 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 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, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Roswell Library. Contact Lynn Wesch at lewesch@bellsouth.net to get on her distribution list.

Smyrna: All all-genre group meets at Borders on the east-west connector on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 3-5 p.m. Contact Jenean Brown at jenean2brown@gmail.com for additional information.

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.

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 Phone _____

Work/Cell 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.